

An Introduction to the 26 Lessons in This Book

Teachers lives are so busy! I should know, I have been involved in Education for 27 years and I still find I am chasing my tail to complete all my tasks. So how can I help you to effectively organise a yearly programme of exciting Circle Time lessons?

This book has been developed around 26 alphabetical themes, centralised around a lovable character of a bear, which you can purchase or make for yourself, and personalise by choosing your own name for it. There are four main strands to the book, which are linked to the Social Skills curriculum and enhance the themes of:

- Self-esteem
- Relationships
- Communication
- Spiritual and Moral Development.

The strands are developed throughout the 26 themes by the carefully planned Circle Time lessons written in alphabetical order, with a weekly introduction of a new poem and rhythm to accompany the poem. All the lessons have been well trialled by both myself and other Circle Time users, and have proved to be very popular and a great source of excitement for the children. The children often meet me at breakfast club just to ask, "Is it Circle Time today, we love it!" The children also take part regularly in In-Service programmes, presented by myself and staff, where these skills are developed and demonstrated.

Circle Time enhances children's confidence in speaking and listening and at my present school this has been developed to a very high level. The school is in a socially deprived area and at a recent Inspection under the 'New Ofsted Framework', children's 'Development and Wellbeing' and 'Care, Guidance and Support' received 'Outstanding' grades. A quote from the report stated that, 'Dream Journey assemblies develop children's imaginations and self beliefs.' A further quote, 'Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted extremely well.' The comments refer to the many supporting programmes we have in place, which are further enhanced by our structured creative Circle Time sessions.

Whether you are a confident Circle Time practitioner or a novice, this book should be accessible to you and be easy to use. The notes on 'How to use this book' will explain how to access the information needed. As your Circle Time develops you will be able to notice how your children develop in confidence and self-esteem. Your children will develop a supportive and trusting network which helps all individuals to discuss issues and problems. These materials have been described by people who have trialled them as, "A very exciting practical resource, easy to use and built on a very solid foundation of many years of expertise and practice."

I hope you enjoy using the resources, have fun and learn from your children's many contributions to each weekly alphabetical delight!

Picture of children talking in a circle

