

## Open Circle Skills

- ✓ Getting to Know Each Other
- ✓ Establishing Classroom Rules
- ✓ Understanding Non-Negotiable Rules
- ✓ Building Positive Relationships
- ✓ Friendship
- ✓ Listening
- ✓ Nonverbal Communication
- ✓ Giving & Receiving Compliments
- ✓ Being Calm
- ✓ Positive Self-Talk
- ✓ Including One Another
- ✓ Cooperating
- ✓ Speaking Up
- ✓ Knowing When to Tell a Responsible Adult
- ✓ Tattling versus Telling
- ✓ Dealing with Teasing
- ✓ Bullying Prevention
- ✓ Role of Bystanders
- ✓ Recognizing Differences & Discrimination
- ✓ Understanding Feelings
- ✓ Understanding Body Language
- ✓ Expressing Anger Appropriately
- ✓ Developing Empathy
- ✓ Problem Solving
- ✓ Setting Positive Goals
- ✓ Brainstorming & Creative Thinking
- ✓ Reaching Consensus
- ✓ Evaluating Solutions
- ✓ Overcoming Obstacles
- ✓ Leadership

If your school is using the *Open Circle Curriculum*, chances are you've heard some of these words. You can help reinforce children's usage and understanding of the words by using them yourself!

### Open Circle Vocabulary

**Brainstorming:** thinking of many ideas without stopping to judge or criticize them

**Bullying:** when one or more people severely or repeatedly harm someone with words or actions

**Calming down:** strategies to get calm when you are upset, overly excited or about to lose control

**Compliment:** a comment to someone that is positive, true and specific

**Consensus:** a decision that everyone will agree to, even if everyone is not completely satisfied

**Cooperate:** work together to get something done

**Double D behaviors:** a cue for "dangerous and destructive" behavior that helps students decide whether to tell a responsible adult immediately or try to handle a situation themselves

**Leadership:** characteristics including reaching out to others, including others, initiating an activity, keeping a group interested and helping a group to calm down if necessary

**Non-negotiable rules:** particular rules in the school and classroom that apply under all circumstances; they can be discussed but cannot be changed

**Nonverbal signals:** agreed-upon signals that communicate without using words, such as raising your hand to be called on

**Open Circle Meeting:** a time for students to sit in a circle of chairs as they work together to build a safe, caring classroom environment and learn Open Circle skills; the inclusion of an empty chair represents an invitation for anyone to join the circle and discussion

**Positive self-talk:** a way of encouraging yourself to do something or reach a goal by being positive and telling yourself exactly what you will do

**School listening look:** a cue to remind students about the expectations for listening at school such as eye contact, posture and paying attention

**Speaking up:** a cue to remind students of the skills of a strong speaker and the importance of voicing your ideas and opinions; also reminds students about how a listener can help a speaker feel more comfortable