

CIRCLE TIME: YEAR: 3/4

Virtue 3 (Autumn 2): Prayer:

I grow in friendship with God through prayer

Knowledge:

To know that my school is a place of prayer and that there are different kinds of prayer and different ways of praying.

Skills:

Praying requires a range of skills and I can pray with my body and special objects, by listening, speaking and resting.

Attitudes:

When I pray it helps me think of God, other people and it gives me hope.

Circle Time Rules:

We listen to each other.

We do not say or do anything that would hurt another person.

We signal when we want to say something.

We may say pass.

If a game involves touch we may sit and watch before making a decision to join in.

Skills - Thinking, Looking, Listening, Speaking, Concentrating

Throughout Circle Time it is vital that teachers praise children for using the above skills.

Step 1. Game

On the Beach.

What to do – Children sit in a circle. Children close their eyes and imagine they are walking on a beach which is made up of really soft golden sand. Can they feel the sand under their feet and between their toes? Imagine what they feel like.....It is warm and sunny. Think of the sun on your face.....Imagine its warmth. Now think of it on your back, feel the heat as you walk along.... You can see the blue sea, twinkling and glittering in the sunlight... Imagine that you are walking down the beach to the water's edge. You are near the sea now. You can feel the breeze from it gently wafting over your body. Can you taste the salt in the air? You can hear the waves rolling in and then the wave trickling back out again. You look down and see a beautiful sea shell sticking out of the sand. Pick it up and look at it carefully. Feel it, is it smooth or rough? You put it in your bag and walk back up the beach. You feel warm, relaxed and happy as you go. The beach scene is going to fade away gradually but no one can take away your special shell and the special time you've had. Tuck that special thought into your memory box. You can get it out in your mind if you ever need to cheer yourself up. Now I want to open your eyes and smile at as many people as possible. (adapted from *More Quality Circle Time* - Jenny Mosley).

Step 2. Round

The teacher discusses with the children what they felt during the guided meditation. Did they like the meditation, why? Did they wonder about anything? What helped them to be still and concentrate? What helped them to listen?

Trigger statement:

I can be still and listen ...

Step 3 Open Forum

The teacher places different objects or artefacts that could be used to help us pray (holding crosses, a selection of beads e.g. rosary beads, prayer cards, bible story books, bibles, candle, something to represent music). The teacher in role tells pupils that they are really finding it difficult at the moment to concentrate when they are praying. Invite the pupils to respond "Would it help if you?" etc.

Invite selected pupils to choose an object from the centre of the circle and say why it helps them pray.

Step 4. Celebration

The teacher says they have 4 jelly babies that I've named after different kinds of prayer. These are their names but can you think of which kind of prayer they are. "Can you help me work it out?" The teacher shows the children the 4 jelly babies:

Peter, Suzy, Andy, Thea. Can you think of the kind of prayer each of them. Jelly babies can be given out (optional).

(Peter **Praise**, Suzy **Sorry**, Andy **Ask**, Thea **Thanks**.)

Step 5. Ending Ritual

Ask the children to close their eyes. Is there anyone or anything they would like to pray for?