

Circle of Grace

Teaching Tips for Teachers and Superintendents



Be flexible: The time frame may vary depending on size of class, age of children, amount of discussion, etc.

Two teachers in each classroom: It may be helpful or necessary to bring in another teacher, especially one of a different gender, when *Circle of Grace* is taught. We strongly advise there be at least two teachers in every class.

Timing: We recommend no more than two to three weeks between the last two lessons. Ongoing reinforcement of the concepts is encouraged throughout the year. Hopefully, the language of *Circle of Grace* will become a part of a positive culture of respect, care, and faith that will help protect children and help them know what to do when they feel unsafe.

Here's a word about the vocabulary: A master vocabulary list of the *Circle of Grace* curriculum is included in all lesson plans. The pertinent vocabulary is listed in each lesson. These are intended for the teacher. The explanation of vocabulary should be integrated within the context of the lessons to assist the children in their understanding of the Circle of Grace concept. The depth of the children's understanding will depend upon their age and developmental stage.

Keep parents in the loop: As you know, parents are children's first and (hopefully) best teachers. The administrator or director will be sending a letter to all parents regarding *Circle of Grace*. You are encouraged to provide parent education opportunities both to inform parents about the *Circle of Grace* program and to foster greater communication in families.

You may be wondering about the meditation: The Circle of Grace meditation is included in each grade. It will help demonstrate the Circle of Grace concept and how God is present in this space because he desires a relationship with all His children.

Finally, *Circle of Grace* can bring up situations of abuse: Sometimes children reveal personal information or details about incidents that, to respect confidentiality, need to be handled outside of the group environment. If this happens, the teacher should tell the child, "Thank you for sharing that. That sounds really important. I will talk to you about that later (at the end of class, at the break, as soon as humanly possible, etc.)." When this happens, be sure you talk to the child at your first opportunity and file a report if appropriate. Remember, the adult is the responsible reporter in cases of suspected abuse.