



Goal Directed Behavior

ABOUT OPEN CIRCLE

Open Circle is an evidence-based social and emotional learning program for Kindergarten through Grade 5. Our grade-differentiated curriculum proactively develops children’s social and emotional skills including recognizing and managing emotions, empathy, positive relationships and problem solving. It helps schools build a community where students feel safe, cared for and engaged in learning.

Making Mistakes

By: Open Circle

Making Mistakes

OBJECTIVES

- To understand that everyone makes mistakes
- To understand that people can learn from their mistakes

INTRODUCE

Ask if anyone has ever made a mistake in class. You should raise your hand. Ask students for examples of mistakes they might make in school. (*Getting an answer wrong on a test, forgetting your homework, letting a goal score in soccer*). Ask students how they feel when they make a mistake. Remind students that making mistakes is something we all have in common.

PRACTICE/APPLY

Ask students how making mistakes might be helpful. Point out that making mistakes often leads to learning something new. For example, if you get an answer wrong on a test, you learn that you need to practice that skill more, or study that material more carefully. If you forget your homework, you might learn a new strategy for reminding yourself to bring your homework to school. You might want to give a personal example.

Tell students that sometimes we make mistakes when we are working or playing with friends. Ask what kinds of things might go wrong with friends. (*Saying something mean or teasing someone.*) Ask students to suggest what they might do when they make a mistake with a friend. (*Apologize. Ask if you can talk to your friend about it. Remember what happened for the next time you're in that situation.*)

Sometimes when we make mistakes we say things to ourselves that are not helpful. (*I can't do anything right. I'll never be successful or good at math, etc.*)

Ask students to share what they could say to themselves that would help when they make a mistake on schoolwork. (*It's okay; everyone makes mistakes. Try again. This strategy doesn't work; I'll try another one.*)

Ask students to think and write about some of the mistakes they have made in school, and how those mistakes will help them learn something new, or improve a skill they are working on.

Preparing to Facilitate Lessons

Preparing for each lesson helps you to listen and be responsive to students.

1. Read the entire lesson. Have a clear understanding of lesson objectives and key vocabulary words.
2. Review lesson “Notes.”
3. Have lesson “Materials” ready to go (skill mini-posters, chart paper, etc.).
4. Look at the suggested literature connections at the end of the lesson. If you don’t have the suggested books, choose a book that you already have that connects to the lesson content.
5. Work towards not depending on having the lesson sheet in front of you. You may want to highlight key questions on note cards or list main ideas on chart paper.
6. Consider how the objectives and concepts apply to your own life experience.
7. Think about some recent classroom examples relating to the concepts.
8. Think of ways to intentionally integrate the vocabulary and concepts into other parts of the school day.

The material on the preceding page(s) is an excerpt from the grade-differentiated *Open Circle Curriculum*. The complete curriculum contains:



- 32 core lessons across five units: Beginning Together, Managing Ourselves, Strengthening Relationships, How to Sort Problems, and Problem Solving;
- 27 supplementary lessons;
- 80 community-building and mindfulness activities and practices;
- 27 skill mini-posters;
- 18 *Home Link* family newsletters;
- Over 250 children’s literature titles that connect to specific SEL topics;
- A myriad of homework and extension activities; and
- End-of-unit student and teacher reflection activities and additional curriculum-wide reflection and assessment tools.

Open Circle is an evidence-based, universal social and emotional learning program for Kindergarten through Grade 5. The grade-differentiated *Open Circle Curriculum* proactively develops children’s social and emotional skills, including recognizing and managing emotions, empathy, positive relationships and problem solving. It also helps schools build a community where students feel safe, cared for and engaged in learning. Open Circle’s unique whole-school approach includes all adults in the school community – teachers, administrators, counselors, support staff and families – learning to model and reinforce prosocial skills throughout the school day and at home.

Teachers implement the *Open Circle Curriculum* during twice-weekly, 15-minute classroom meetings in which students form a circle of chairs, including an empty seat to symbolize that there is always room for another person or opinion. These meetings are also a familiar and safe setting for children to discuss important issues in their classroom, school, community or the broader world. Teachers and counselors also use the *Open Circle Curriculum* with students who require additional, targeted instruction.

The *Open Circle Curriculum* is designed for educators who have participated in Open Circle’s Core Program, an interactive and experiential professional development experience that combines training and coaching sessions to help educators strengthen their knowledge and skills in several areas, including: social and emotional learning (SEL) theory, research and practice; facilitation; group development and community building; problem solving; mindfulness and reflection practice; appreciation for cultural and other differences in students; integrating SEL throughout the school day; and using children’s literature to teach and reinforce SEL.

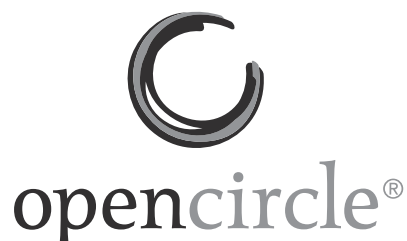
For more information, visit www.open-circle.org or call us at 781-283-3277.

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