



Dialogue Circles

A preventative approach to conflict

The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County (CRCMC) offers Dialogue Circles as an **effective and positive approach to school discipline**. Dialogue Circles use Restorative Justice principles to build empathy and community.

What Dialogue Circles Are

How will my school use this?

- Dialogue Circles can be used for at risk groups of students to address conflict before it leads to punitive measures.
- To give students a sense of empowerment, inspiration, and voice while promoting habits of respect, responsibility, and accountability.
- To promote student/student and student/school connectedness.

Who is involved?

- Usually only 8-10 students and a school counselor participate in the Dialogue Circles.

What happens during a Dialogue Circle?

- Dialogue sessions are usually scheduled for three or more 45 minute-1 hour weekly sessions.
- When possible students sit in a circle, preferably without a table in the middle, and discuss questions or topics that the “Keeper” (CRCMC Facilitator) brings up. These questions are designed to allow students to explore the strategies they use during conflict and learn from others in the group.
- Through the discussions that occur, students practice listening skills and respectful dialogue. The Dialogue Circle creates a safe space for students to recognize their own role in conflict so that they can learn how to take responsibility for their own actions.

How do I find out more?

Contact Pete Meleney at CRCMC for more information.

Phone 301-942-2181

E-mail youth@crcmc.org

Address 2424 Reedie Dr. Suite 301
Wheaton, MD. 20902



Combined Federal Campaign
(CFC) # 80049