## Big Idea/ Topic
Dialogue Circles

## Standard Alignment
**Health Standard 4**: Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

## Instructional Design

### Define Simply
Introduce students to dialogue circles by going over guidelines. Here are some examples:
- Students will get in a circle
- Everyone participates, but you do not need to talk
- Treat each other with kindness and respect
- Only the person with the “talking stick” may talk; everyone else listens
- Keep responses to 1 minute; with short answers or 1-2 sentences
- Circle can move from left to right

The teacher will want to select the topics for the first few circles. When appropriate, students can put ideas in a topic box, which the teacher may draw from throughout the year. Circles can also be a time to talk about issues in the classroom (e.g., kids teasing each other). You can use circles to do check-ins to see how students are feeling and whether they are ready to learn. Students may use a feelings wheel to describe their emotions (Example). In addition, classes can utilize circles to review, discuss, and debate recently learned academic content.

### Model/Demonstrate with Examples
Teacher modeling during dialogue circles will help students know what is expected. Teach specifically how to use the talking stick (it must be held in our hands at all times and in our lap). Also, reinforce when someone is speaking we should have voices off, look at the person, and raise your hand if you have question.

### Practice in All Relevant Settings
Dialogue circles are a great way to interact at the start the day, or upon return from lunch or another activity. (Video Example)

### Monitor & Provide Positive Feedback and Reinforcement
Teachers can reinforce and normalize student sharing by showing appreciation during dialogue circles. Behavior specific praise will let students know specifically what they did correctly; it also gives them positive attention. For example, “I appreciate how you took turns using the “talking stick” and while someone else was talking, you were listening. Great work!”

### Based on Data, Adjust Instruction & Reteach
Teachers should monitor how dialogue circles are working. It is recommended to do them at least once a week, although a daily practice may also be beneficial. If students are having trouble learning that day, a dialogue circle may be a classwide response strategy to help everyone focus and connect (Video Example).

**Evidence of Student Success**

- Student success will be demonstrated when dialogue circles help classrooms become a community of learners.

**Distance Learning Supports**

- This concept can be utilized as an online activity instead of a physical circle.

**Engaging Families**

- Students may teach their families to hold a dialogue circle to reconnect at the end of the day.