

Talking Circles: Friends Build Speaking and Listening Skills



Talking questions:

- What are you learning and **what are you wondering about butterflies?**
- What was your favorite part of the story?
- What's your favorite kindergarten activity and why?
- **Tell about something you're good at.**
- Tell about your current writing piece.

Talking Circles provides a safe environment with maximum opportunity for each child to develop good speaking and listening skills. It's a great way for children to review and cement new science concepts and to have an opportunity to talk to every other child in the classroom.

Organizational Tips:

Form two straight lines of children. Show the first line how to sit in a circle facing out - they become "the inner circle." Then walk the other children over to form "the outer circle" with each child facing one student on the inner circle. The students on the inner circle get to talk for 30 seconds while the outer circle students listen.



At the bell, the inner circle rotates (scoots) clockwise one person. They greet their new listening friend and talk again. Rotate four or five times and then switch roles with the outer circle becoming the talkers and movers.



- **Children build friendships** and develop confidence in speaking to each other.
- **Learning increases** when children have a chance to talk about new concepts!
- **It is helpful for the shy child** to be on the listening side first.