

Master Preschool Circle Time Routine Planner & Activity Schedule

A Preschool Circle Time Activity Schedule Template

OUR CIRCLE TIME ROUTINE

TEACHER	DATE
THEME / TOPIC	WEEK OF
CLASSROOM / GROUP	NUMBER OF CHILDREN

About this planner

Circle time is a great opportunity to bring the group together, build classroom routines, encourage participation, and support early learning. Use this planner to create a consistent circle time rhythm while keeping activities fresh and engaging.

WHAT'S INSIDE

SECTION	PLANNER PAGE	HOW TO USE IT
SECTION 1	Suggested Circle Time Flow	A 20–35 minute daily rhythm from welcome to transition.
SECTION 2	Weekly Activity Planner	Plan each day’s theme, song, calendar, weather, feelings and activities.
SECTION 3	Music & Movement · Calendar Time	Build a song rotation and a daily calendar routine.
SECTION 4	Weather Watch · Social-Emotional Check-In	Observe the weather and give children a predictable feelings routine.
SECTION 5	Learning Activity Bank	Pick literacy, math, science, creative and SEL activities to keep things fresh.

SUGGESTED CIRCLE TIME FLOW

Use this sequence as your daily rhythm. Times are suggestions — adjust each block to your group’s age, attention span and energy level, and note your own plan in the last column.

TIME	CIRCLE TIME ACTIVITY	WHAT WE'LL DO	OUR PLAN
2–3 min	1. Welcome & Greeting	Welcome each child, sing a hello song, or use a greeting game.	
3–5 min	2. Music & Movement	Sing familiar songs, introduce a new song, or get moving with an action song.	
3–5 min	3. Calendar Time	Review the day, date, month, and year. Talk about yesterday, today, and tomorrow.	
2–4 min	4. Weather Check	Look outside, identify the weather, and discuss appropriate clothing or seasonal changes.	
3–5 min	5. Social-Emotional Check-In	Help children identify and share their feelings using a feelings chart, question, or quick discussion.	
5–10 min	6. Learning Activity	Explore the day's theme through a story, discussion, prop activity, demonstration, or hands-on learning.	
2–5 min	7. Interactive Activity	Add a movement game, guessing game, fingerplay, rhyme, or participation activity.	
1–2 min	8. Transition	Preview what's coming next and use a song, rhyme, or cue to transition.	
TOTAL SUGGESTED TIME 20–35 minutes			

Teacher Tip

Circle time doesn't have to be long to be meaningful. Keep children moving, talking, singing, and participating rather than expecting them to sit and listen for an extended period.

WEEKLY CIRCLE TIME ACTIVITY PLANNER

Plan one theme per day, keep familiar routines predictable, and rotate songs and activities to keep circle time fresh.

MONDAYWelcome to the Week

THEME / FOCUS

MUSIC & MOVEMENT — SONG

CALENDAR — DAYCALENDAR — MONTHWEATHER — TODAY'S WEATHER

FEELINGS — HOW ARE WE FEELING TODAY?STORY / LEARNING ACTIVITY

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY / GAME

TUESDAYExplore & Discover

THEME / FOCUS

MUSIC & MOVEMENT — SONG

CALENDAR — YESTERDAY WASTODAY ISTOMORROW IS

WEATHER — WHAT DO WE NOTICE OUTSIDE?FEELINGS CHECK-IN

STORY / LEARNING ACTIVITYINTERACTIVE ACTIVITY / GAME

WEDNESDAYMidweek Movement

THEME / FOCUS

MUSIC & MOVEMENT — SONG

CALENDAR — DAYCALENDAR — MONTHWEATHER — TODAY'S WEATHER

FEELINGS CHECK-INSTORY / LEARNING ACTIVITY

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY / GAME

WEEKLY CIRCLE TIME ACTIVITY PLANNER (CONTINUED)

THURSDAY Talk, Play & Learn

THEME / FOCUS		MUSIC & MOVEMENT — SONG
CALENDAR — DAY	CALENDAR — MONTH	WEATHER — TODAY'S WEATHER
FEELINGS CHECK-IN		STORY / LEARNING ACTIVITY
INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY / GAME		

FRIDAY Celebrate the Week

THEME / FOCUS		MUSIC & MOVEMENT — SONG
CALENDAR — WHAT DID WE LEARN THIS WEEK?		WEATHER
FEELINGS — WHAT MADE US HAPPY THIS WEEK?		STORY / LEARNING ACTIVITY
FRIDAY CELEBRATION / GAME		

Weekly Reflection — What worked? What will we try next week?

Music & Movement Ideas

Use this section to build your classroom's song rotation.

Hello & Greeting Songs

- ☐ Hello, Everybody
- ☐ Good Morning Song
- ☐ Name & Greeting Song
- ☐ Hello, Hello, How Are You?

Movement Songs

- ☐ Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes
- ☐ If You're Happy and You Know It
- ☐ Freeze Dance
- ☐ Animal Movement Song
- ☐ Follow the Leader
- ☐ Shake Your Sillies Out

Fingerplays & Rhymes

- ☐ Five Little Monkeys
- ☐ Five Little Ducks
- ☐ Itsy Bitsy Spider
- ☐ Open, Shut Them
- ☐ Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

SONGS I WANT TO TRY

Calendar Time Planner

Daily Calendar Checklist

- ☐ Identify the day of the week
 - ☐ Identify the month
 - ☐ Identify the date
 - ☐ Identify the year
 - ☐ Count the days on the calendar
- ☐ Discuss yesterday, today & tomorrow
 - ☐ Look for patterns
 - ☐ Count together
 - ☐ Sing a calendar song

Calendar Questions

- What day is it?
- What comes next?
- How many days have passed this month?
- What patterns can we find?

Weather Watch

Today's Weather

- ☐ Sunny
- ☐ Windy
- ☐ Cloudy
- ☐ Foggy
- ☐ Rainy
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Snowy

Talk About It

- What do you notice outside?
- What should we wear today?
- How does the weather make you feel?
- What season are we in?

TEMPERATURE

WEATHER WORD OF THE DAY

Social-Emotional Check-In

Give children a simple, predictable opportunity to identify feelings and practise talking about emotions.

How Are We Feeling Today?

- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Calm
- ☐ Sad
- ☐ Tired
- ☐ Excited
- ☐ Proud
- ☐ Worried
- ☐ Silly
- ☐ Angry
- ☐ Other: _____

Question Ideas

- What is something that made you smile today?
- What are you looking forward to?
- What helps you feel calm?
- What can we do when a friend is feeling sad?
- What is something you're proud of?
- Who can you ask for help when you need it?
- What is one kind thing we can do today?
- Show us with your face: How are you feeling today?

TODAY'S CHECK-IN QUESTION

TEACHER NOTES

Circle Time Learning Activity Bank

Tick the activities you plan to use this week and rotate across learning areas to keep circle time varied and engaging.

Literacy

- ☐ Read-aloud
- ☐ Story retelling
- ☐ Rhyming game
- ☐ Letter-of-the-day activity
- ☐ Sound game
- ☐ Story sequencing

Math

- ☐ Counting
- ☐ Number recognition
- ☐ Shape hunt
- ☐ Pattern activity
- ☐ Sorting
- ☐ Measurement discussion

Science & Discovery

- ☐ Weather observation
- ☐ Nature discussion
- ☐ Simple experiment
- ☐ Animal investigation
- ☐ Five senses activity
- ☐ Seasonal discovery

Creative & Dramatic Play

- ☐ Puppet story
- ☐ Movement story
- ☐ Prop activity
- ☐ Show & tell
- ☐ Pretend-play prompt
- ☐ Music & art connection

Social-Emotional Learning

- ☐ Feelings identification
- ☐ Friendship discussion
- ☐ Kindness activity
- ☐ Problem-solving scenario
- ☐ Breathing exercise
- ☐ Gratitude sharing

Quick Circle Games

- ☐ Movement game
- ☐ Guessing game
- ☐ Fingerplay
- ☐ Rhyme
- ☐ Freeze dance
- ☐ Follow the leader

MY ACTIVITY IDEAS