Circle Time on Values

* Review the circle guidelines with students….
1. Respect the talking piece. Everyone listens and everyone has a turn so be mindful on the amount of time of your response.
2. Be respectful with our words and actions
3. Have fun but don’t try and be funny, not a time for funny.
4. Keep it 100…..Keep it REAL
5. Honor Confidentiality…What is said in circle stays in circle, but no guarantee
* Have students give you a thumbs up or thumbs down on willingness to participate in group. If thumbs down… which one do you not agree with? How can we make it work for you?
* Redirect students that are not ready to an alternate assignment.
* If you don’t want to share say no thank you and pass the piece to the next person.
* **Thank the students for sitting and participating**. Reason that you have chosen to circle up is so that everyone gets an opportunity to learn more about one another. Explain that it is very important as their counselor/teacher that you build a relationship with each and every one of them to better help and meet their needs. Challenge them to participate in the circle.
* **Review the three ways to actively participate in circle**
1. Be an active listener
2. Raise your hand for a clarifying question, NOT A COMMENT and limit the questions to 3
3. Thumbs up and Thumbs down
* **Introduce the talking piece.** Explain why you chose it?
* **Practice.** At this time explain to the students that you want to practice using the talking piece. Tell the students which direction you will pass the talking piece, and ask them a very simple question….**What is your favorite color**?

Once the talking piece makes it around, praise students, let them know what they did well and if anything needs to be corrected. Explain this time that you would like to practice using the talking piece and thumbs up and thumbs down. Thumbs up if they like something and thumbs down if they don’t. Reiterate that the ideas is not to talk or comment w/o the talking piece. Tell the students to get their thumbs ready and ask the students **what their favorite cereal is?** Tell them your favorite cereal and students give thumbs up/down if they like it or not and pass the talking piece. Once the talking piece has made it around praise students.

* Value Round: Each student should have a marker and index card. Explain to the students that having morals and values are very important to sustain positive relationships. Explain that the decision that we make when no one is watching is a sign of truly who we are. Explain to students that this activity will allow us to establish who we want to be, and whom we want others to be when we are in circle. For the activity, tell students to pretend that they are going to go shopping for a new best friend at the mall. Tell them that if they were shopping for the perfect best friend what characteristics would they look for in a new BF (give examples…respectful, truthful, kind). Have the students write the value or characteristic that is most important to them on the index card. Begin with yourself and explain why you chose your characteristic briefly, and then pass the talking piece. Once everyone has shared put the cards on floor. Have students stand on their value and explain that the values present are the values that we will hold one another accountable to when we are in the circle. Everything that stands tall has a strong foundation. Our values build our foundation and they are the reason that we are who we are. Have students give a thumbs up if they can live up to the values and hold each other accountable to them. Thank them for establishing values.
* Discussion Round
1. Ask students to say their first name and their last name and how many siblings are in their family.
2. If you could change one thing about our school what would it be?
3. Tell the group something that you are looking forward to.
* Closing-share quote below:

Family isn’t always blood. It’s the people in your life who want you in theirs; the ones who accept you for who you are. The ones who would do anything to see you smile and who love you no matter what.

Explain to students that family is very important, and that it is my hope as the counselor/teacher that even though we aren’t blood relatives, we can treat each other with respect and dignity accepting everyone for who they are and go the extra mile to make everyone feel as though they belong.