



Responsive Classroom® Closing Circle to Celebrate International SEL Day

A closing circle is a strategy for bringing a peaceful end to the school day. Like so many classroom activities, students will benefit most when activities are chosen purposefully, adjusted to their needs and skills, and clearly explained and modeled.

Because the closing circle is usually held in the last minutes of the school day, it's also helpful to decide beforehand how you will dismiss students from the closing circle. Will students line up at the door? Stay in the circle for bus announcements? The more you clarify your expectations, the smoothly the end of the day will go. After all, that's the goal of a closing circle: to end the school day on a calm, positive, meaningful note for everyone.

“Did You Know?” (Adapted from [Closing Circles: 50 Activities for Ending the Day in a Positive Way](#))

End the day with a closing focused on a social-emotional learning (SEL) topic.

1. Choose an SEL topic, such as empathy, and review the definition.
2. Students take turns completing this question: “Did you know [fact about the topic]?” For example, “Did you know empathy is when you tell someone you understand about how they feel?”
3. The whole class responds enthusiastically, “We do now!” to each question.
4. Summarize the responses after everyone has shared, including one or two observations from how students used empathy during the day.