

MODULE 9 LESSON 3

Welcome to Lesson 3: Marshmallow Mutt Genetics

Introduce the Circle Process:

Read the suggested script and the guidelines to the group.

SUGGESTED SCRIPT

This year, we are trying something a little different at _____ (school name). We are holding Community Building Circles to get to know each other better. This allows us to talk about things that are important such as celebrations, current events, and anything else that's meaningful to us. This is "our time" to talk with one another.

GUIDELINES

Since we want to give everyone a chance to be heard, we can use this talking piece. (preferably something soft) The person holding the talking piece gets to speak and everyone else gets to listen. Before we begin, let's review a few guidelines. We ask that everyone:

- **Respect the talking piece.**
- **Speak from the heart (share only your own experiences and not those of others).**
- **Listen from the heart (be open and non judgmental).**
- **Trust you'll know what to say (no need to rehearse).**
- **Say "just enough" (be considerate of the time when sharing).**

Is there anything missing from this list that we need to add?

One way to show you agree with something that someone says without saying a word is by making a hand sign or snapping fingers. Or we can create our own hand-signal.

Are these guidelines something we can all agree to?

OPENING QUESTION

Pick one question from the list below. Offer the prompt to the group and start by answering the prompt yourself. Pass the talking piece to the next person.

- *Where did your first name come from? Are you named after anyone? OR*
- *Use one word to describe how you are feeling right now. OR*
- *What's your favorite _____?*

CURRICULUM-RELATED QUESTION

Today we're going to discuss genetics as well as recessive and dominant traits. So to get us started I want to ask you a few questions to relate to our lesson. (Offer the prompt to the group and start by answering the question yourself. Pass the talking piece to the next person.)

- *Are you right or left-handed?*
- *Can you roll your tongue?*
- *Has anyone ever told you that you look like one of your parents? Which one?*
- *Where do you think you get your traits? (e.g. hair color, hair type, eyes, ears)*
- *Which side of your family has more dominant traits -- your Father's or your Mother's?*
- *If you were starting a family, would you want to be able to choose the physical traits of your baby?*

CLOSING

Thank the students for sharing their responses and feel free to ask questions or make observations about any of their comments to draw connections.

Now ask the students to return to their work stations and start your lesson.