

Magic Circle Task:

“I Can Draw a Picture of Myself and Tell You About It”

Purpose:

After drawing a picture of themselves, the children will be given the opportunity to tell about their portrait, (what they are doing, how they are feeling, etc.). These activities enable the children to consider themselves as individual physical persons who do things and feel emotions. They are also enabled to realize that each person behaves and experiences emotions in his or her own individual way which sets the stage for appreciation of diversity and respect for others..

Preliminary Preparations:

Prior to conducting this Magic Circle, have the children draw a picture of themselves. In your own words, say: *“We have all seen pictures of ourselves and we have all seen ourselves in the mirror. I would like you to draw a picture of yourself. Draw a picture of all of you. Include all of the parts of your body. Draw the very best picture of yourself you can. Let me know if you’d like some help”* Collect these, then distribute them one at a time to each child artist as they volunteer to share their pictures in the Magic Circle.

Introduce the Task:

After reviewing the Magic Circle Promises, tell the children: *“Remember the drawings you made of yourselves? Sometimes we call pictures we draw, or paint, of ourselves ‘self-portraits.’ Today, in our circle we will have a chance to show the group our self-portraits and tell about them. I will go first and show you how we will do it.”*

Hold up the picture you have drawn of yourself and say something like this: *“Here is a picture of me. It is my self-portrait. I am happy in the picture. You can tell because I have drawn a smile on my face. I am happy because I have on a new hat, a new dress and new shoes. I am also happy because in my picture I am getting ready to go to a*

party. Some parts of my body I have drawn are: my head, my arms, my hands and fingers and my legs.”

Involve the children:

Ask: *“Who would like to show us his or her, self-portrait and tell us about it?”* As the children volunteer, hand them their self portraits to show and talk about. If they are having difficulty telling about their picture help them by asking questions such as: *“Can you tell us what you are doing?” “How are you feeling?” “Show and tell us about the parts of your body you drew in your self-portrait?”*

As the children finish, thank them for the good job they did. Then collect their pictures to avoid distractions.

Lead a summary by asking:

1. *“What was everyone who shared today able to do?”*
2. *“How did you feel when you were telling us about your self-portrait?”*
3. *“What feelings did we have that were the same? What feelings did we have that were different?”*

Point out that sometimes we feel the same way other people feel and sometimes our feelings are different. It is okay to feel the same and it is okay to feel different.

Conclude the Magic Circle:

Thank the children for sharing and listening and for helping to make the circle a success.

Related Activity:

Following the circle, make a display of the portraits. Include short quotations from statements the children made during the session. Make a classroom activity out of looking at the display and reading the quotations aloud as a group.