

## **The Responsive Classroom Approach**

**Adapted by Nancy Doda**

**The Responsive Classroom is an approach to teaching and learning developed by the Northeast Foundation for Children. It is an approach informed by a belief in seven basic tenets. They are as follows:**

- 1. The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.**
- 2. How children learn is as important as what children learn.**
- 3. The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.**
- 4. There is a set of social skills that children need to learn and practice in order to be successful. They form the acronym CARES – Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, Self-control.**
- 5. We must know our children individually, culturally, and developmentally.**
- 6. All parents want what is best for their children and we must work with parents as partners.**
- 7. The principles of The Responsive Classroom must be practiced by educators in their interactions with each other, with the children, and with the parents.**

## **CPR: Circle of Power and Respect Procedures**

### ***Getting Ready?***

- Step 1: Select a focus or topic – students may help**
- Step 2: Determine who will share. Limit to 3-5 students.**
- Step 3: Determine who will lead (1 student only).**
- Step 4: Gather in a complete circle.**
- Step 5: Start the CPR Time (20 mins.)**

### ***Who does what?***

#### **Those who share:**

**The student(s) who is to share can make only one statement about the topic, and then is to ask the group, "Are there any questions or comments?"**

#### **The Leader:**

**The student who is the leader/facilitator takes charge of calling on persons to share, and on calling on 3 additional persons who have questions or comments for the individual who has just made their statement. This person should also keep the CPR format flowing according to guidelines established.**

#### **The Others:**

**All other members of the circle may volunteer to ask a question or make a comment to the speaker. Hands raised or pass the small ball.**

#### **The Teacher:**

**Just be in the circle. Only interfere in a serious crisis or during practice sessions.**

**Hints?**

- **Rotate all roles fairly.**
- **Let students evaluate “how we did” aloud and on paper, especially for first 3 sessions.**
- **Generate topics at first; but quickly turn it over to kids.**
- **Don’t overuse – maybe 3x weekly, for 20 mins each.**
- **Combine with Morning Meeting other pieces (e.g.; News, Special Business, Fun Activities).**

**Adapted from the Northeast Foundation for Children’s Responsive  
Classroom Practice**