Circle of Friends Program Outline - 3 Examples

1. We have two groups that are in their third year of meeting together.

We are taking on some “advanced” social skills, after having a couple of

years of “basic training”. The kids will be acting as social skills detectives

this year, as we read Diary of a Social Detective and solve cases together.

We will intersperse that with some direct instruction on mindfulness and

calming and assertiveness/communication skills, and also with some

games that will help practice and reinforce. We will end the year with a

group social activity to celebrate and practice skills.

1. For the upcoming Circle of Friends year, we want to increase Autism

awareness with the staff as well as the student’s throughout the building. I want to continue to

facilitate communication and social interactions between the focus students and the peers. I

want to see them interacting on their own throughout their day and not just during the Circle of

Friends meetings.

1. We have a strong Circle of Friends programs at the elementary level in our

district. Student started to ask if they could join before I even had a chance to ask

them! The goal of my group is to promote acceptance and belonging, along with

teaching skills that will help students personally and socially as they move up through

school, and on to “real life” after they are through school.

I want my Circle of Friends group to also feel connected to the rest of the school. I am

planning for them to be more involved in school-wide activities as well. For example,

they were the cheerleaders for our most recent pep rally, and they really enjoyed it! We

can create our own school-wide activities as well. I also want them to interact with other

students who share the same challenges with autism, and know some peers who are

able to help and connect with them outside of Circle of Friends.