

circles of support discussion guide



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This discussion guide will help you talk about the four Circles of Support films below.

All films can be viewed on the Inclusion Designlab website www.inclusiondesignlab.org.au/circles

Watch each of the films one by one and use the discussion guide to talk about the films. These films are based on variations of similar situations observed in established Circles of Support.

The *Circle of Support Discussion Guide* accompanies the Circle of Support publication. Download the publication at www.inclusiondesignlab.org.au/circles

 To watch these videos please go to inclusiondesignlab.org.au/circles/videos.

1. Inviting Circle Members



2. Contacting Services



3. Are we a person centred circle?



4. The role you play



1. inviting circle members

Watch the film: **Circles of Support - Inviting circle members**

The film can be found at inclusiondesignlab.org.au/circles/videos

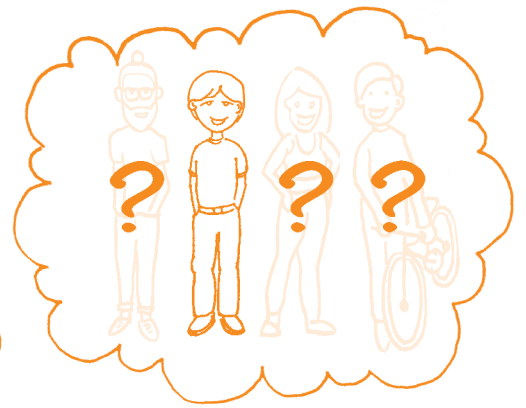
About the film

This film is an example of how to prepare to invite someone to join a Circle of Support. It is important to prepare what you might say before you extend an invitation.

Circles of Support are most successful when the person with a disability is involved in inviting people to their own Circle.

When inviting people to a Circle you might need some help from another friend, a family member or a support worker.

To prepare: go through the information and make sure you understand what the Circle of Support is, why you want a person to join, how you might invite them and any other details you need to include.



Discussion

What did you notice about Alice and Toby's discussion?

Why did Alice and Toby have a conversation before asking someone?

Why do you think this conversation is important?

What could be done if the person cannot express themselves to be able to invite circle members?

2. contacting services

Watch the film **Circles of Support - Contacting services**

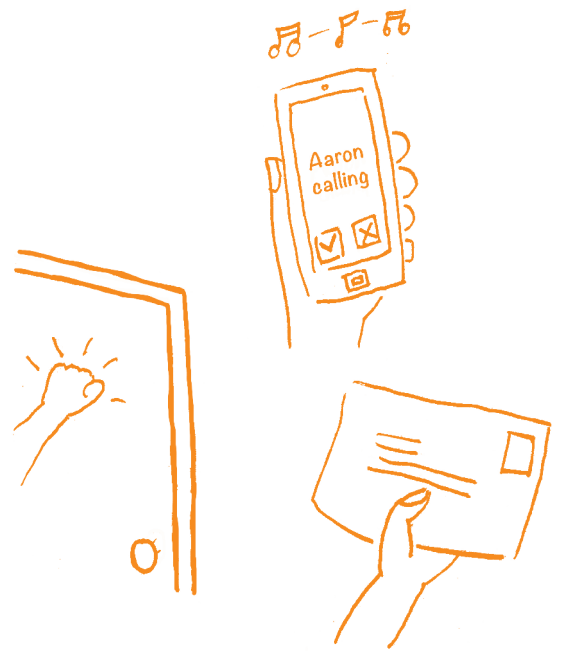
The film can be found at inclusiondesignlab.org.au/circles/videos

About the film

This film is an example of a conversation between a circle member and a disability service.

People who are part of a Circle of Support may need to contact disability services at some point. This might be to introduce the Circle of Support, organise things for the person, or just ask a question.

It is important that all members of a Circle of Support be involved in contacting the services in a person's life.



Discussion

What are the details that were discussed in the phone conversation?

Which aspects of the conversation stood out to you?

How would you approach this type of conversation?

What are some reasons for which you would need to contact a service on behalf of a person with a disability?

3. are we a person centred circle?

Watch the film: **Circles of Support - Are we a person centred circle?**

The film can be found at inclusiondesignlab.org.au/circles/videos

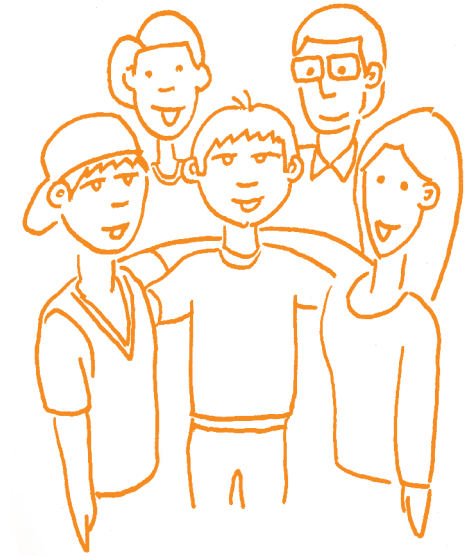
About the film:

This film is about person centred Circles of Support and why they are important.

Circles of Support are person centred and always include and represent a person with a disability.

This film gives an example of a Circle that is not being person centred and excludes the person from conversation and decision making.

It is important for Circles of Support to understand and be reflective of person centred actions in a circle of support.



Discussion

What did you notice about this Circle of Support discussion?

How did the way people were talking impact on the conversation?

Do you think Toby's reaction was appropriate?

What would you have done to make the conversation more person centred?

How can you ensure that the circle members are aware of the way they are conducting meetings?

4. circle members: the role you play

Watch the film: [Circles of Support - The role you play](#)

The film can be found at inclusiondesignlab.org.au/circles/videos

About the film:

This film provides an example of a Circle of Support where people have different mind sets and points of view. The example shows how the role each person plays can influence and direct the outcomes of a Circle of Support.

Circle members need to be self-aware of their influence and how they handle problems or disagreements. This will help Circles work through complex issues or problems.



Discussion

What role did each Circle member play in the discussion?

How did people react to each other?

How do you think roles influence the outcome of a situation?

What could you have done to make the conversation go differently?

How can you reflect on your role within a circle of support?





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