



A Beginner's Guide to Learning Circles

Chapter 9a

What learning circle participants told us
about why learning circles work.

available at www.nald.ca/learningcircles/bg.htm

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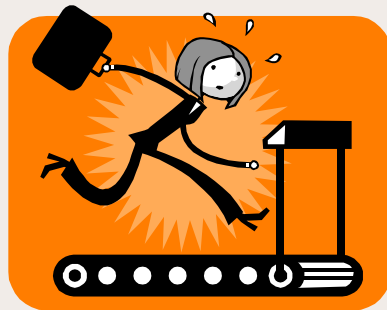
The learning circle participants said that learning circles work because they are:

- Welcoming
- Inclusive
- Supportive
- Flexible
- Non-hierarchical
- Self-managed
- Exploratory
- Community focused



Learning can feel inaccessible when:

- we MUST use written language
- we MUST follow a predetermined course
- we MUST meet predetermined outcomes.
- we MUST meet time pressures.



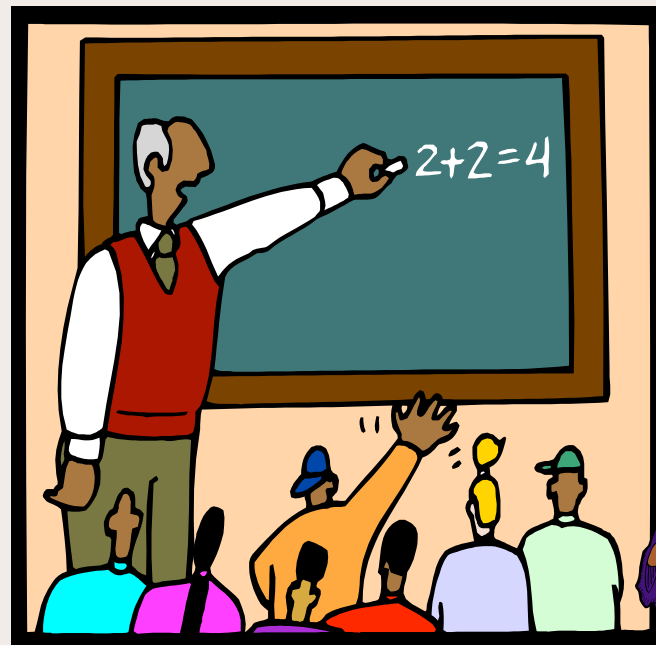
Learning can feel inaccessible when:

- some learning styles are favoured over others
- we operate within cultural traditions which may not be the cultural traditions of the learners



Learning can feel inaccessible when:

- the transmission of information seems more important than the creation of meaning, identity and community



Hey Mr. Math ...
what about us?



In learning circles, people come as they are
and are accepted as they are.

“In a circle, you are communicating with everyone in the
group about who you are, where you come from, where
you are going, as well as your attitudes and beliefs.”

