



Checklist

Restorative Circles

This checklist is taken from the RPI Quality Framework, the complete version of which is available at <https://www.restorativepracticesireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CDI-RPI-QA-Framework-web-2-1.pdf>. The checklist is one of a series of RPI checklists.

For restorative practice circles – for example, in schools or workplaces to build relationships or discuss general issues – the checklist could include the following:

- Was the intention for the circle clearly explained?
- Were ground rules of respect and listening agreed?
- Was a talking piece agreed and passed around?
- Was the right to pass explained? Were those who passed given the opportunity to speak later?
- Did check-ins and check-outs occur?
- Were mixers/ice-breakers appropriate and inclusive?
- Were energisers used as needed and were they effective?
- Did everyone have an opportunity to speak, without interruption? Was everyone encouraged to speak? Overall, was sufficient time allowed for dialogue?
- Was everyone treated equally? Was personal bias allowed to affect dealings with anyone?
- Was everybody made to feel that what they had to say was valued and that their opinions, thoughts, feelings and needs were listened to and acknowledged?
- Was the facilitator's body language appropriate and consistent?
- Was the facilitator skilled in use of listening, probing, reframing and formulating plans in a non-directive way?
- Did the facilitator show empathy, interest, concern and understanding?
- Was the facilitator open to ideas?
- Was the facilitator accepting of differences of opinion?
- Was the facilitator able to elicit everyone's needs and facilitate discussion on how to meet them?
- Did the facilitator demonstrate awareness of underlying restorative principles and values?
- Is there anything that needs to be improved next time?