

Dear 4Su Families:

Speaking up was the topic of a recent Open Circle lesson. In order to be able to express our ideas and opinions, it's important to be able to speak up – to only in the classroom but also in other places and at times when not adults are nearby. We learned four important skills that help people to hear and understand what we say:

- Look at the group
- Speak slowly
- Speak clearly
- Speak loudly enough

We also discussed how to help a speaker feel comfortable and encouraged and how to be a confident, convincing speaker.

At home, ask your child to use good speaking up skills to tell you about his/her day at school. Ask your child to use good listening skills while you tell him/her about your day. Encourage your child to always use both good speaking-up and good listening skills at home, in school, and in other places.

In another Open Circle, we talked about **interviewing**. An interview is a meeting or conversation in which one person gets information from another person. We talked about interviews we have seen or read. Good interview questions often begin with "why," "how," "when," or "what" and are phrased to elicit more than a "yes" or "no" response. We practiced interviewing and learned that interviews help us to get to know someone better.

At home you can reinforce the interviewing skills your child learned in Open Circle by asking your child to interview you. You can be yourself or you can pretend to be someone else, such as a famous person in the news, an historical figure, or a character in a book. Compliment your child for asking good interview questions, and ask what he/she learned from the interview.

Yours truly,

Ms. Sullivan