



# A Beginner's Guide to Learning Circles

## Chapter 8a

Some types of circles we saw.

available at [www.nald.ca/learningcircles/bg.htm](http://www.nald.ca/learningcircles/bg.htm)

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Did we see a holistic approach in the learning circles outside of indigenous communities?

Certainly.

We saw a variety of models for learning circles. We have named the models and described how they work in the following pages.

The participants in these groups do not use these names to describe their groups.

We use these names as a way of building a framework for talking about learning circles

because that is what researchers do.



We saw some learning circles where people were seeking a safe place to activate their gifts.

We called these circles “shelter from the storm” circles.

People come to these circles because they face discrimination, oppression and or violence in mainstream the community.



In shelter from the storm circles, people have a chance to build strength in a safe place.



In shelter from the storm circles, people build an inclusive, non-judgmental, open, safe and free space.





Participants build strength individually and collectively. They can do this because they know that they are part of a group where they will always be accepted and celebrated for who they are and the gifts they have.



They go out into the world to do their work  
but return to the circle for comfort, acceptance  
and rejuvenation.



To learn more about shelter from the storm groups,  
read about the Hershare group.