

## **Campus Connection**

(Getting kids plugged into school & relationships)

**Purpose:** 1. To encourage & support positive student connections by helping students learn how to create in others a sense of belonging, fitting in and purpose.

**Materials:** Adequate floor space and Connect the Dot Activity Sheet (last two pages) for each student and one for yourself. Optional use of classroom camera for completed connect group picture=)

Student Materials: Pencil.

**Time:** 20-25 minutes.

**Key Concepts:** Making connections through eye contact, greetings and gestures. Creating a sense of belonging, fitting in and having a place to go. Disconnected feelings of not belonging or fitting in.

**Introduce/reintroduce:** Self. Make sure the boys and girls know who you are. Review past classroom activities. Ask if anyone has a birthday today, this week or this month and recognize the student...help he/she feel recognized & connected;)

### **Part 1:**

Ask: Raise your hand if you're any good at doing "connect the dots" work sheets?

Distribute: Your choice of handouts (see attached samples last two pages.)

Announce: We're going to be doing three challenges today. The first challenge is this. You'll have about 45 seconds to connect all the dots on your handout. There's lots of ways to get all the dots connected and no matter how you get them connected will be just great!

State: Ready, set...begin!

After: 30 seconds begin your countdown to no time left and

Say: Times Up! Put down your pencils! Great job everybody!!!

Either: A. Walk around the room looking at student's papers and or  
B. Call upon student's to stand up and show off their paper or  
C. Have students sit where they are & hold up their papers to be viewed.

Be Sure: To create an environment that encourages and supports a sense of camaraderie (Wow, everyone in here has some great ideas and strategies!)

**Part 2:**

Announce: Keep your papers on your desk for a few minutes and we'll come back to them later. Now I want us to try the second challenge that students in middle school, high school and college (name area/local universities) get to do because I think you can handle it if you all work together.

Select: One volunteer (#1) to come to the front of the room (or where ever adequate space is available.)

Have: That student then select (connect with) another volunteer (#2) to come up front.

That: Volunteer then selects (connects with) another volunteer (#3) to come up and join the group.

Then: The third volunteer selects (connects with) another volunteer (#4) to come up and join the group.

Finally: The fourth volunteer selects (connects with) another volunteer (#5) to come up and join the group.

Direct: The five volunteers to form a circle attached by their pinky fingers or holding hands.

Instruct: One of the five volunteers to invite (connect with) one of his/her classmates (not anyone forming the circle) to enter into the circle by walking under the raised arms of circle shapers.

*(What we've got so far are five students standing in a circle holding hands or pinkies. One student is standing inside the circle.)*

Instruct: The person in the middle of the circle is to now connect with another student to join him/her in the circle.

*(What we have now is a circle of five students holding pinkies/hands. Two students are inside the circle.)*

Instruct: The student who most recently entered into the circle to connect with another person to join the middle of the circle.

Continue: This process until the circle is full.

*(Five people holding hands/pinkies with arms extended can often hold to 28-30 other kids.)*

If: The circle becomes full and there are students that yet need to be included direct the last student who had entered the circle to join hands with the other circle members and become part of the circle.

Continue: This process until everyone (all students) are involved (connected.)

Have: (optional) The classroom teacher take a picture of his/her kids being connected!

Instruct: All students to return to their seats.

Instruct: Students to give them selves a round of applause for completing the second challenge=))))

### **Part 3:**

Show: Students your Connect the Dot activity sheet (the one you've prepared prior to class that only has the perimeter dots connected (imagine a fence around all the inside dots.)

Explain: That sometimes the best way to get all the dots connected is by including them in a circle or a group...just like we did in our second challenge.

Help: The students understand that the best way to get connected with the other students in your classroom, grade and on school campus and in your families is helping them feel included.

Clarify: Not everyone has to be your best friend yet it's really important for each of us to feel as if we're connected, fit in and belong to something bigger than ourselves.

Provide: Three examples of how to Connect with other kids in the classroom and on campus (just like we did in the second challenge.)

1. Eye Contact: Make eye contact with people you see in class, at recess, lunch and any where else you see them on your campus.
2. Gesture: Give that person a wave, a point, a head nod, smile or the "Hang Loose/Thumbs Up" sign.
3. Greeting: Give that person an Invitation, Shout Out, a How You Doing or a What's Up?

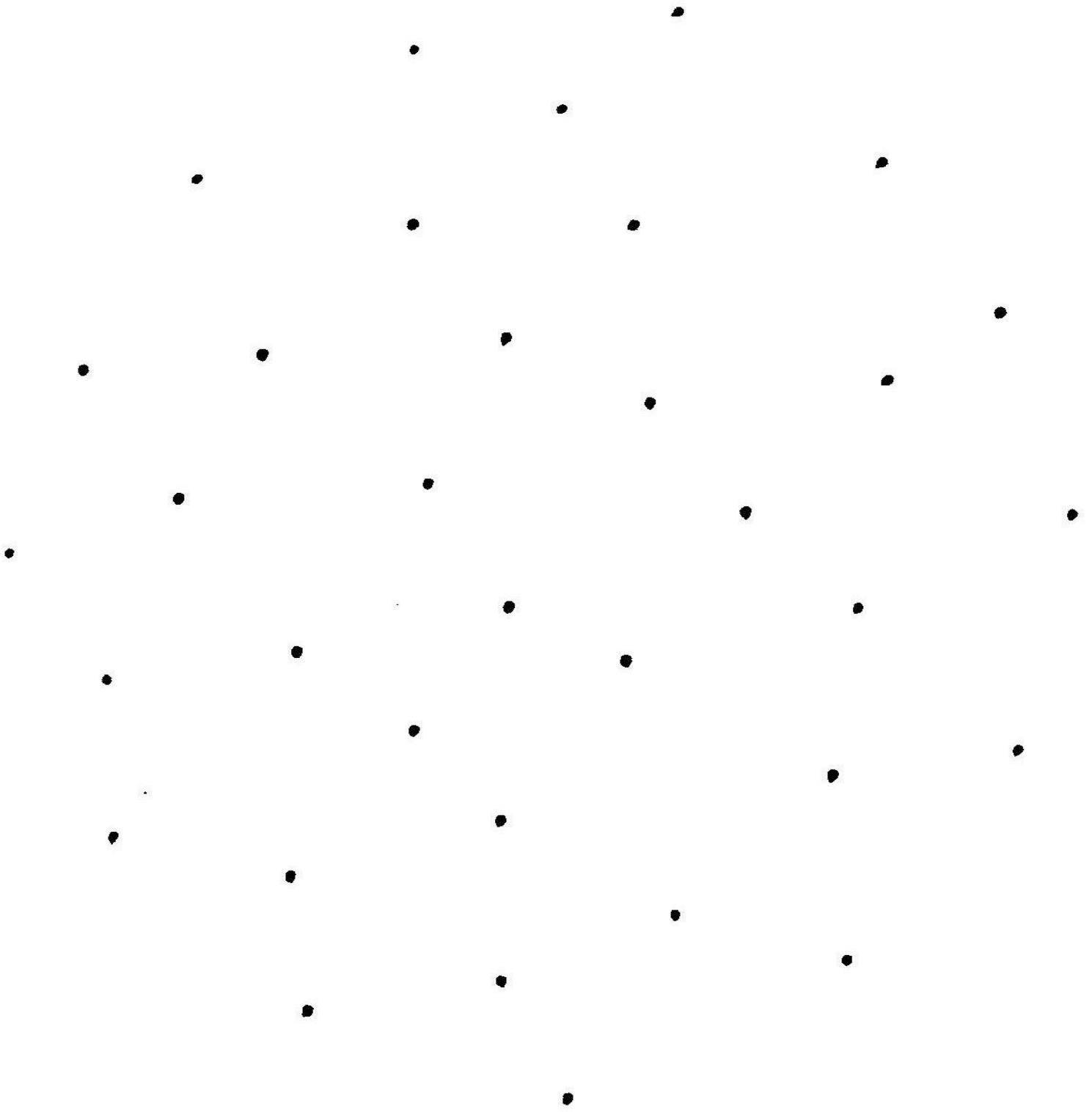
### **Part 4:**

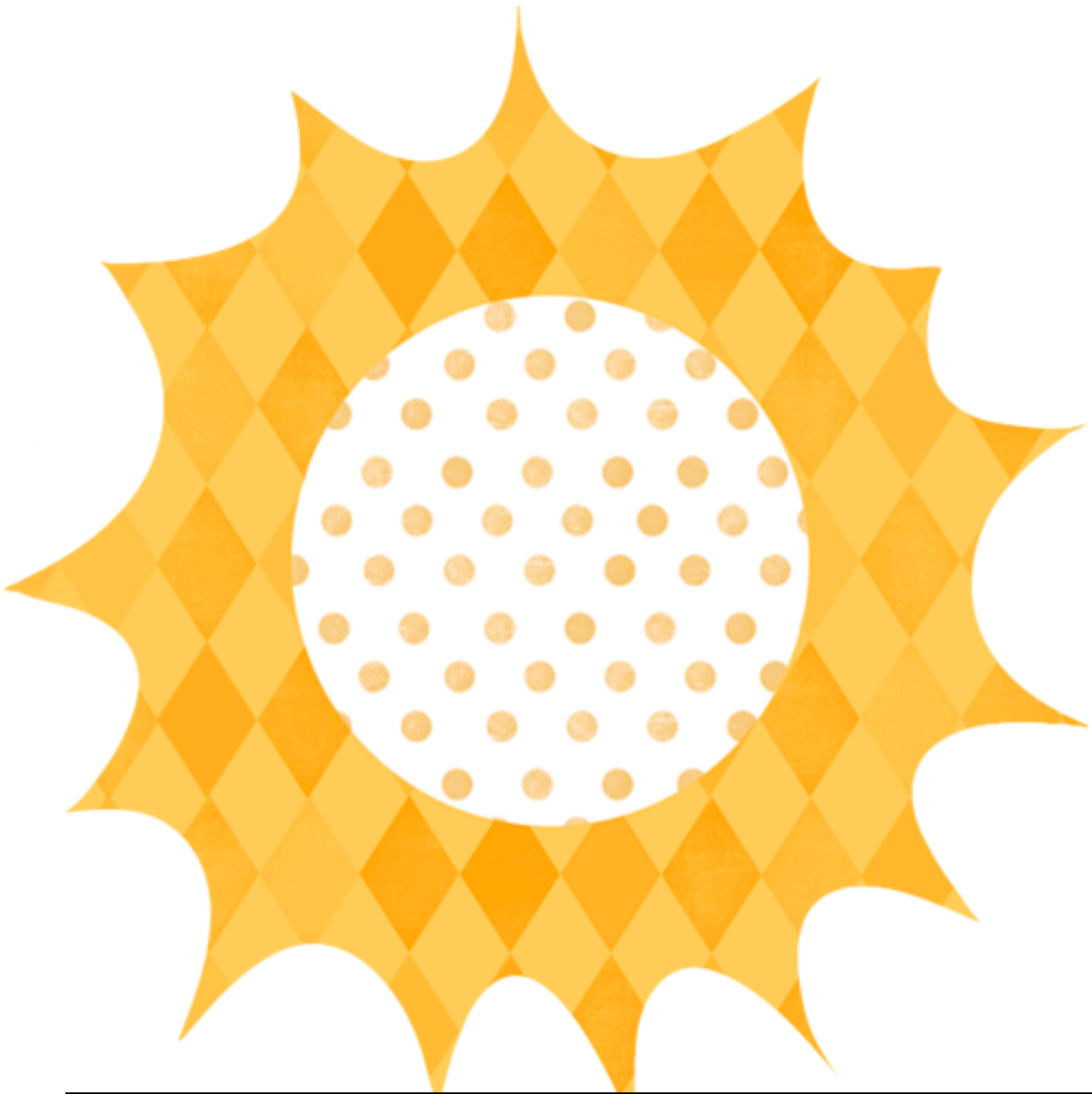
Challenge: (#3) The students to be on the look out for kids in their classroom and on campus this week that might be feeling disconnected and to connect with them.

Talk: About the importance of feeling connected in elementary, middle school, high school, college and even in our own neighborhoods and homes with new and changing family members. Let them know that kids feeling connected feel better, do better and care more about themselves, each other and do a better job taking care of their families at home & friends at school than people feeling *disconnected*.

Remind: Students that feeling disconnected is one reason why people might go see a counselor someday=)

(Choose between the two forms of the activity handout (below) to use with your kids.)





- 1. The goal of this challenge is to figure out the best way to get all the dots connected.**
- 2. You will have about forty five seconds to get all the dots connected.**
- 3. Be sure to use a pencil!**
- 4. Wait for the direction to get started.**
- 5. Take this activity sheet home and attach it to your refrigerator. Tell a grown up person about it!**