

# What are Learning Circles?



## Learning circles...

- o Are a form of cooperative learning where participants discuss challenges of mutual concern and work towards a common goal.
- o Begin with the participants' prior practice experience and involve deliberate discussion where multiple perspectives are considered before the group plans and applies strategies for action.
- o Consist of a small group (6 – 8 people) who meet in a series of circles based on mutual respect and trust where ground rules are established to ensure conversations remain effective.
- o Are led by an impartial facilitator who guides democratic conversations where each person's contribution is valued and given equal weight.
- o Support a more in-depth understanding of workplace experience and may enable practice change through supporting cooperative problem solving.
- o Are a potential best practice for the current continuing care context with its emphasis placed on team-based approaches and collaborative care.

