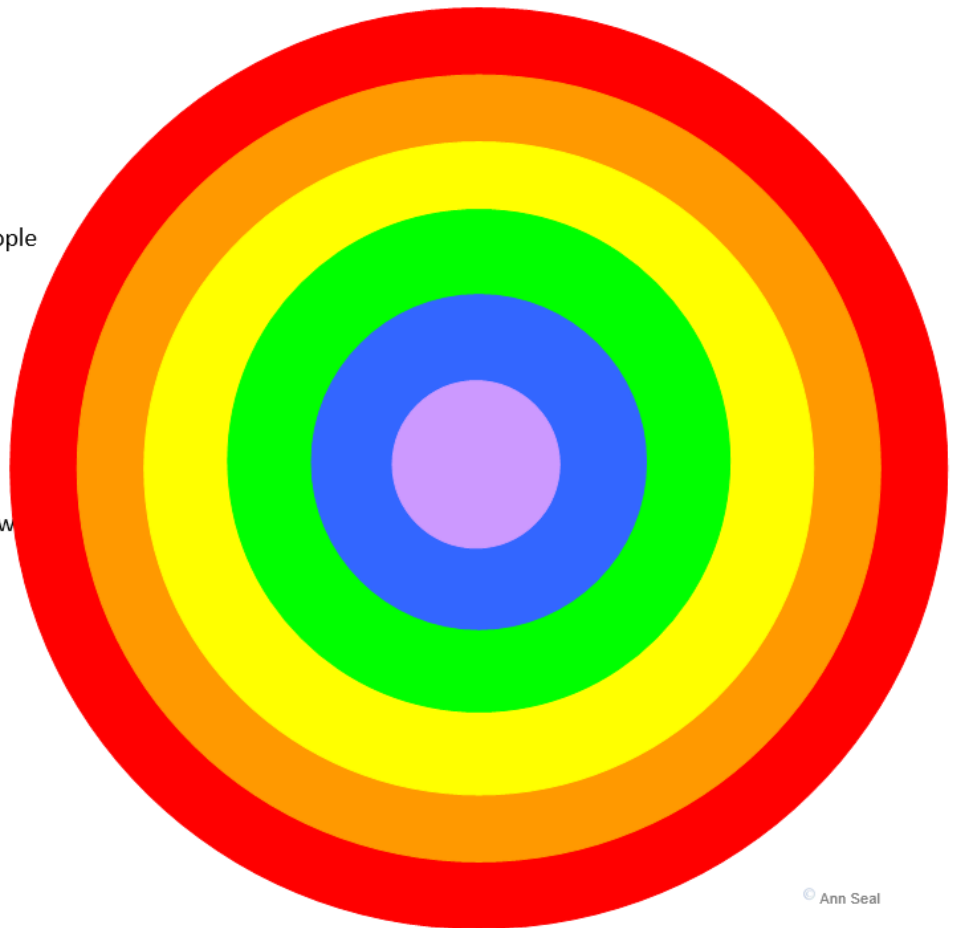


James Stanfield “Circles Model” – Intimacy and relationships

- **Purple** – private, personal space
- **Blue** – close hug/cuddle circle (chosen people in this circle may be close family/friends)
- **Green** – arm around shoulder/touching another person’s arm (people we prefer to be less close to e.g. other relatives or friends)
- **Yellow** – handshake circle (people we know but don’t want to hug or cuddle)
- **Orange** – wave circle (people we know but not as well e.g. head teacher)
- **Red** – stranger space



The James Stanfield model is a useful way of teaching children about personal space and empowering them to understand they can have a choice about who they want to be physically near to. It also helps them understand that other people have their own boundaries of personal space and can also decide whether or not they want to be in close proximity to or touched by another.

Can you find a story with lots of characters in? Read the story together and make character pictures or names on cards. Choose one character to put in the middle circle. Ask the children to discuss which circles they think the other characters in the story would go on (as if decided by the character in the purple circle). Does any character change position when a different character is placed in the centre? E.g. with Red Riding Hood how may it vary depending on if Red Riding Hood is in the centre, or Grandma or the wolf? Most of the children’s fairy stories work well for this exercise.

→ *Can you make the link with using our Early Warning Signs to decide if someone is in a circle which is too close for us to feel safe with. What could someone do if that happened?*

👉 Thanks to Holly-ann Martin for introducing me to the model  @ProtectingKids