INCLUSIVE STORY TIME CHARACTERISTICS

**What is inclusive story time?**
- Supports all children including children with disabilities and English Learners.
- Provides adaptation and modifications to support the needs of all children.
- Embraces children with and without disabilities to participate in story times together.
- Provides a sense of belonging for all.

**What is not inclusive story time?**
- Having separate story times only for children with disabilities.
- Having story time without adaptations and modifications when needed.
- Having separate story times for only English Learners.

**Characteristics of an inclusive story time:**
- Use short, clear sentences, and slow down when reading and singing.
- Provide many different forms of visuals during activities:
  - puppets
  - objects (stuffed animals, props, etc.)
  - pictures/icons/flannel board stories
  - sign language
  - adapted books
- Provide a variety of options for children to sit and to define space:
  - carpet squares or story time carpet
  - lines of tape on carpet
  - beanbags
  - chairs for children
  - adult chairs to create natural boundaries for space
- Use a visual schedule for all activities.
- Provide a variety of options for children to pay attention:
  - have a variety of fidget toys available
  - allow children to stand, sit on the peripheral, move or go for a walk and return
  - alternate between quiet activities and loud or physical activities -- provide a balance.
- Use visual reminders of story time expectations.