



INCLUSION COLLABORATIVE

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



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