

Inclusive Storytime Tip Sheet
Developed by Building on the Best
for the San Francisco Public Library Mission Branch

“[All Together Now Inclusive Storytime](#)” offers children with varying learning styles and abilities an opportunity to learn together in a safe and supportive environment. Respect and appreciation for differences is always encouraged. Modifications to the Inclusive Storytime make it more accessible for children with disabilities, allowing all children to fully participate in the storytime experience.

Establishing an Inclusive Environment

- Greet families at the door
- Encourage caregivers to socialize, and invite them to talk with you during playtime
- Provide materials in participants’ home languages

Introduction Sequence

- Use a simple attention-grabber that includes a verbal signal and response, and a physical/visual signal and response
- Set expectations for children and caregivers, including use of the “cool-down room”
 - Keep expectations short, simple, and consistent
- Introduce inclusive storytime
- Use [visual supports](#) for expectations and schedule (pictures and words; bilingual)

Physical Space

- Carpet square/disco seat to support children in maintaining their own space or “body bubbles”
- Cool-Down Room available when children need a break
- Clear signage with pictures and words
- Physical space and paths that can accommodate wheelchairs

Book Choice

- Review current storytime books and identify [books that support inclusive programming](#)
 - themes of inclusion (broadly defined)
 - focus on rhymes or other language development
 - themes of social skills or friendships

Activities

- Establish a consistent routine and use a visual schedule to illustrate to children
- Modify games to be more concrete (e.g., Old McDonald with body parts)
- Modify games to incorporate movement (children balancing while singing “los elefantes balanceaba”)
- Broaden the range of physical actions that librarians model for children to participate (e.g., “walking” with two fingers instead of moving whole body)
- Include rhyming or language games that support speech and language development

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Created by Alexis Filippini, in partnership with the Special Needs Inclusion Project and Support for Families of Children with Disabilities