All Together Now!

Inclusive Storytime & Playtime Bilingual English/Spanish
Why is inclusive storytime needed?
How many children served?

- How many people in U.S. (civilians) have disabilities?
  - 0.8% under 5 years old
  - 5.2% ages 5-17
  - 10.3% ages 18 –64

Autism Spectrum Disorder

...means a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engaging in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences.

~Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, retrieved from http://nichcy.org/disability/categories
Incidence & Prevalence

- According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), some form of autism affects 2 – 6 of every 1,000 children, with the most recent statistic being 1 in 110. (4)

- ASDs are four times more common in boys than in girls, although Rett Syndrome has only been diagnosed in girls. (5)

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html and
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/research.html
Create a Welcoming Environment

- Focus on similarities first, then differences
- Use person-first language
- “child with autism” or “child with a disability”
- Don’t assume the individual needs help
- Remember that a disability is a functional limitation that interferes with a person’s ability to walk, hear, talk, learn, etc. A handicap is a situation or a barrier imposed by society, the environment, or oneself (e.g., an inaccessible facility is a handicap to the individual with a disability to participate in an activity at that facility).

Much of the information in this inspired by the Special Needs Inclusion Project
Mission

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.
All Together Now Inclusive Storytime program can be enjoyed by all children, but it is especially designed to engage children ages 3-8 years with special needs.
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Adaptations
Visual Schedule
Expectations
Seating Options
Laminated Big Books/Boardmaker Visual Supports
Cool Down Room
Learning and Sensory Tools: Scarves/Beanbags/Puppets
Appropriate Playtime Toys
Seating Options
Big Books and Visual Supports
Cool Down Space
Learning & Sensory Tools
Questions?