Creating Accessible Storytimes

How to “Ramp” Up Your Storytimes for All
Overview

• The Who
• Universal Design
• Getting to Know Who
• Applying Universal Design
• Why
The Who

• Disabilities
  • Developmental disorders (autism, downs syndrome, etc.)
  • Hearing impaired
  • Learning disabilities
  • Physical disabilities

• ESL
  • Ethnicity
  • Religion
Universal Design

Making something that works for everyone
Developmental Disabilities

• Set expectations
• Be detailed
• Be consistent
• Provide special seating
• Reduce lighting and sound
• Let them know ahead of time of any changes and ask if they may need accommodations
Hard of Hearing

- Provide special seating
- Provide text for songs
- Let them sit near where music may be coming from (speakers/live performers)
- Communicate ahead of time with parent/guardian to learn of additional accommodations needed
- Provide ASL storytimes when possible or incorporate ASL into parts of storytimes
Learning Disabilities

• Go slow
• Speak clearly
• Use visual clues like pictures or tactile objects
Physical Disabilities

• Allow for space
• Provide special seating
• Allow early arrival for seating accommodations
Visual Disabilities

• Be descriptive/specific
• Use additional senses
• Provide tactile items
• Stay away from vague words and phrases like “this,” “that,” “over there,” etc.
ESL

• Partner with English speaking family members
• Collection development
• Learn and incorporate a few words into your storytime
• Use pictures and their descriptions
Ethnicity & Religion

• Be mindful of cultural differences
• Provide diverse books to show the spectrum of your community
Virtual Storimes

• Captions
• Clear
• Consistent
• Contrast
• Descriptive
• Repetitive
In House Storytimes

• Clear
• Consistent
• Contrast
• Descriptive
• Repetitive
Why

• 1,398 hearing impaired under age 5 in MO
• 1,426 visually impaired under age 5
• 49,054 developmental disabilities under age 18
• 7,169 physical disabilities under age 18
• 10,186 self-care difficulty under age 18

US Census Bureau-Table S1810 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates
Why

Because we serve our community!
Questions?

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