

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**

Why

Because we serve our community!

Questions?

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