

Autism-Inclusive Early Literacy Storytime Templates



The storytime templates in this resource are designed to be inclusive of autistic children with a variety of sensory needs and learning differences, and were co-designed with parents and caregivers of autistic children. This resource includes:



- 1 Basic Inclusive Storytime Template
- 1 Virtual Inclusive Storytime Template

Basic Inclusive Storytime Plan Template

This autism-inclusive early literacy storytime template includes low sensory activities, multiple methods of engagement and participation, as well as hands-on activities. This storytime is intended to take place in a designated storytime space at the library or outreach location.

Learning Level	<p>Select a learning level for the program, rather than an age range (for example toddler, preschool, or kindergarten level). Mention that the program is all ages, but designed at that certain learning level.</p> <p>Learning Level: _____</p>
Duration	<p>Choose a 30 min or a 40 min program. This time range was preferred by families with autistic children in the Autism-Ready Libraries research group.</p> <p>Duration: _____</p>
Theme	<p>Select a theme that appeals to the interests of the children in your community.</p> <p>Theme: _____</p>
Introduction	<p>Welcome families and set inclusive expectations for your program with an introduction that includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A friendly welcome highlighting the inclusive nature of the program • A Description of how families can participate • Offer quiet space where kids can go to color/do a craft if overwhelmed • Description of visual schedule
Movement Activity and/or Rhyme	<p>Select a fun opening movement activity or a rhyme. Choose something with easy movements and provide options for those who want to stand or sit.</p> <p>Activity or rhyme: _____</p>

Basic Inclusive Storytime Plan Template Cont.

<p>Read Aloud</p>	<p>Choose a picture book that has repetition, engaging elements, and bold easy-to-read font. Books that rhyme are a bonus!</p> <p>Book: _____</p> <p>Select multiple methods of engagement and participation for your read aloud including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A visual support (such as a flannel board or projected slide deck): _____ • Spoken participation method (such as call and response): • _____ • Non-spoken participation method #1 (such as holding up a color): _____ • Non-spoken participation method #2 (such as pointing to a body part): _____
<p>Free Choice Activities</p>	<p>Select 3 hands-on activities to offer as choices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical play activity option (such as building blocks): _____ 2. Art activity option (such as coloring or a craft): _____ 3. Sensory activity option (such as a sensory bin, or pipe cleaner activity): _____ <p>Children may choose one activity or cycle between all of the activities. Tie the activities in with the book.</p>
<p>Goodbye Song</p>	<p>Choose a song that has a physical element you can add to it, such as movement or American Sign Language.</p> <p>Song: _____</p>

Virtual Inclusive Storytime Plan Template

This autism-inclusive early literacy storytime template was designed to help library staff plan autism-inclusive virtual programs. This virtual storytime program works best when conducted synchronously over a program such as Zoom where families can interact over chat.

Learning Level	<p>Select a learning level for the program, rather than an age range (for example toddler, preschool, or kindergarten level). Mention that the program is all ages, but designed at that certain learning level.</p> <p>Learning Level: _____</p>
Duration	<p>Choose a 30 min or a 40 min program. This time range was preferred by families with autistic children in the Autism-Ready Libraries research group.</p> <p>Duration: _____</p>
Theme	<p>Select a theme that appeals to the interests of the children in your community.</p> <p>Theme: _____</p>
Introduction	<p>Welcome families and set inclusive expectations for your program with an introduction that includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A friendly welcome highlighting the inclusive nature of the program • A Description of how families can participate • A brief tutorial on how to use the virtual interface • Description of visual schedule
Hello Song	<p>Select a fun song that participants can clap to. Include a visual element with the song. Tie the song in with your theme. <i>Tip: Mute participants while they are singing along</i></p> <p>Song: _____</p>

Virtual Inclusive Storytime Plan Template

Movement Activity and/or Rhyme	<p>Select a fun opening movement activity or a rhyme that can be done by children sitting in front of a computer or device.</p> <p>Activity or rhyme: _____</p>
Read Aloud	<p>Choose a picture book that has repetition, engaging elements, and bold easy-to-read font. Books that rhyme are a bonus!</p> <p>Book: _____</p> <p>Select multiple methods of engagement and participation for your read aloud including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A visual support (such as PowerPoint slides of the book pages): _____ • Virtual spoken participation method (such as unmuting for call and response): _____ • Virtual non-spoken participation method #1 (such as using the chat): _____ • Virtual non-spoken participation method #2 (such as pointing to an image on the screen): _____
Free Choice Activities	<p>Select 2 different types of hands-on activities to offer as choices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Art category option (such as coloring): _____ 2. Building category option (such as making a kazoo craft): _____ <p>Offer children the option of showing off what they've made on screen. Tie the activities in with the book.</p>
Goodbye Song	<p>Choose a song that has a physical element you can add to it, such as movement or American Sign Language. <i>Tip: Mute participants while they are singing along</i></p> <p>Song: _____</p>