



April 13, 2021

Learning Materials that Promote Inclusion for Infants and Toddlers

Host

Treshawn Anderson, NCECDTL

Host

Gail Joseph, NCECDTL

Inclusion & Belonging







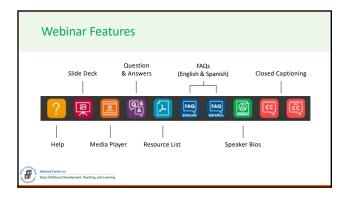
Inclusion & Belonging

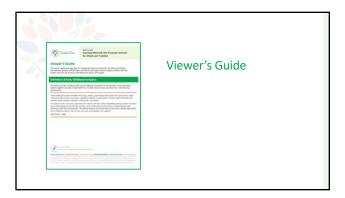


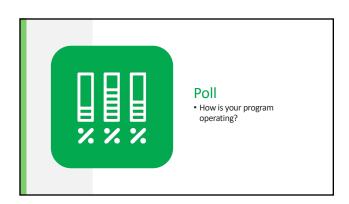




3 Preschool Episodes







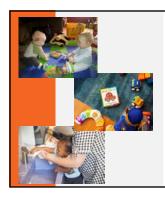


Inclusive early learning environments are places in which children, with and without disabilities, and their families experience a

- sense of belonging,
- positive social relationships,
- and development to reach their full potential.







Inclusive Learning Environments

- Arrange the physical space for easy access
- Responsive schedules
- Support social engagement
- Select engaging materials
- Modify teacher interactions

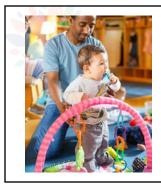
Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

 Ensures that a free and appropriate education is available to all eligible children with disabilities





Inclusion & Belonging Through Infant Toddler Learning Materials



"...The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify high-quality early childhood programs and services are access, participation, and supports."

-DEC/NAEYC, 2009



Access

Educators provide children with access to a wide range of learning opportunities, activities, settings, and environments.



Participation

Educators provide children with individualized support that allow children to participate fully in play and learning activities with their peers and meet developmental goals.



Supports

Education staff use resources, professional development, and trainings to support their implementation of high-quality inclusive practices.

Participation







Using a wide range of teaching practices to help children engage in the learning activities.

Participation





Participation =

- Learning
- Thriving
- Meeting developmental goals
- ELOF
- IFSP



Video

Participation in the Infant Toddler Environment



Video

Participation in the Infant Toddler Environment

- Assistive devices are easy to use
- Participate in activities alongside peers
- Teacher support to move about the environment





Modifications

- Small changes that make a big impact.
- Individualized and help children participate
- Builds children's sense of belonging
- Ongoing process



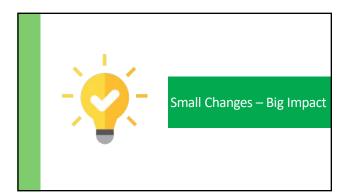
Modifications

- Provide access
- Promote participation
- Provide meaningful interactions
- Support greater learning opportunities



Modifications

- Use modifications when children are interested BUT not participating.
- Check out the Head Start Center for Inclusion (see viewer's guide)













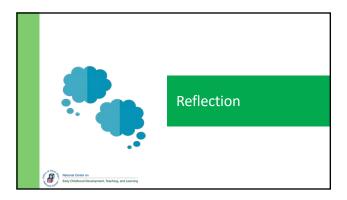
5 Key Aspects of Quality Inclusive Learning Environments

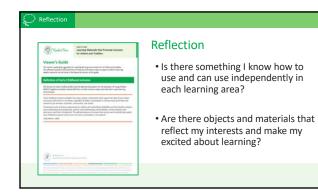
- 1. A safe and supportive physical environment
- 2. Inviting materials
- 3. A predictable schedule and consistent routines
- 4. Connecting and communicating with all children
- 5. Engaging interactions and meaningful learning experiences



Inviting Materials

- Exploring materials supports infant's and toddler's creativity and curiosity
- Learning from families helps to create culturally responsive environments







Strategies for Adapting Materials

- Materials at optimal position for the child
- Stabilize materials
- Modify the child's response
- Make the materials attractive

Have Materials at the Optimal Position



- Place materials nearby on the floor
- Place family pictures and artwork lower on the wall

Have Materials at the Optimal Position



- Lower placement of materials
- Lap desk on the floor for balance
- Easel on a table to keep children's attention

Stabilize the Materials





- Stabilize materials using tape, Velcro, non-skidded backing
- Stabilize furniture for infants and toddlers

Modify the Child's Response



- Add large foam grips or wrap masking tape around crayons, markers, eating utensils
- Use puzzles with knobs or handles
- Add tabs on books

Make Materials Attractive



- Add shiny textures to materials
- Add mirrors
- Use objects and books with
 - Bold and simple designs
 - High-contrast colors

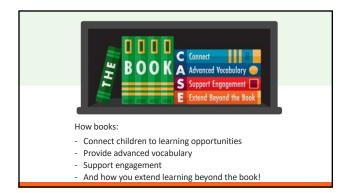




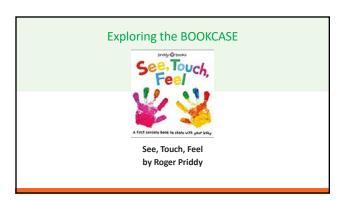
Video

Adapting Materials

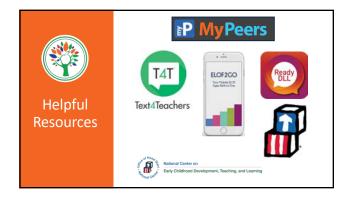
- Make the music activity larger and brighter by adding scarves
- Modification for children with visual & hearing impairments
- Inclusive of all children















Join us for our next episodes:

April 20, 2021

Learning Materials that Promote Inclusion for Preschoolers

May 11, 2021

Supporting Infant Toddler Families Through Inclusion











