



## How is Sensory Storytime Different from other Storytimes?

- Fewer children
- More personalized
- Predictable
- Picture Schedule
- Movement
- Interactive Books and Materials
- Mix of activities
- Plan for Sensory Needs

## Size

- Sensory Storytime typically has 5-8 children and their parents
  - Every child is known by name
  - Every child's needs can typically be met
  - Stories and activities can be tailored to individual children's interests and needs
  - Stories and activities can be much more interactive with every child participating

## Themes

- Anything you would do with typically developing children
- Can plan for individual interests of children
- Examples of themes I've used

Trains	Letters
Dinosaurs	Shapes
Going to the Doctor	Farm Animals
Things that Pop	People We Love
Counting	Emotions
Colors	Things that Roll
Going to Bed	Jungle Animals
Things We Love	Numbers
Spots	Babies

## Predictability

- Use picture schedule that is frequently referenced throughout the storytime to remind children where we are and what's coming next
- Follow exact same order of activities every week
- Same "Hello" and "Goodbye" song"
- *Priscilla* (the pig puppet) is always there

## Visual Schedule

- Can use any pictures representing activity
- "Boardmaker" pictures are most commonly used for this population
- I like to put pictures in order from left to right (the way print is read)
- Can cover each picture as activity finishes
- I like to laminate my board so kids can play on it and nothing happens!



## Mix of Activities

- Rotate back and forth between activities that involve movement (e.g., poems, games, fingerplays, songs) and activities that require more focused concentration (books!)



## Choosing Books

- *Length* (not too long!)
- *Illustrations* (colorful and engaging!)
- *Content* (will choose books that match children's special interests)
- *Sensory* (will choose books where children can touch the pages)
- *Interactive* (will choose books in which children can participate in the telling of the story)
  - e.g., flannel pieces, lift-the-flap books



## Choosing Songs/Poems

- Anything that involves movement
- Try to encourage individual participation
- Helps to have props
  - felt pieces, each child gets one to put on board or take off board
  - pictures that each child holds (5 little monkeys)
  - actual potato for "One potato, Two potato"



## Movement

- Movement is integrated throughout the storytime through songs, stories, and games
  - e.g., What Time is it Mr. Fox?
  - We're Going On a Bear Hunt
  - Familiar preschool poems such as Itsy Bitsy Spider, Row Row Row Your Boat, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- May integrate music and instruments



## Surprise Box

- Typically some kind of sensory play that is sometimes integrated with the theme and sometimes just for fun!
- Often try to integrate dramatic play into activity
- Often try to capitalize on practicing social skills (e.g., sharing, trading)
- "Knock, knock, knock! Knock, knock, knock! Open up!!"
- Examples:
  - Blowing Bubbles
  - Jumping on Bubble Wrap
  - Feeding and Putting to bed animal puppets
  - Putting together wooden train tracks and sharing trains
  - Putting together large puzzles (letters and numbers)




## Plan for Sensory Stimulation

- Books
- Fidgets
- Surprise Box
- Toys at end of storytime
  - We have a box of sensory toys that we often bring out after we sing the Goodbye Song.
  - Gives children a chance to play together and parents a chance to visit!



### What do we do about “Distracting Behavior”?

- Distracting behavior is typically ignored.
- Every effort is made to re-engage the child in the activity.
- Sometimes a sensory toy from the sensory box is brought out and given to the child.
- **THERE IS NO BEHAVIOR THAT IS NOT ACCEPTED IN THIS SETTING.  
NONE.  
I MEAN IT!!**

### Getting Ready for Sensory Storytime

- Fidgets
- Surprise Box
- Visual Schedule
- Puppet (if you want)
- Choose Hello and Goodbye songs
- Social Story: *This is my Library*
- Or make your own!

### Additional Resources

- **AUTISM AND THE LIBRARY**
- <http://www.librariesandautism.org/>
- <http://douglascountylibraries.org/storytime/sensorystorytime>
- <http://www.ala.org/alsc/edcareers/profdevelopment/alscweb/courses/sensorystorytime>
- **VIDEOS**
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehJoVM-SG3k&feature=c4-overview&list=UUr3WN\\_8lqM6b\\_I36Z0VabHA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehJoVM-SG3k&feature=c4-overview&list=UUr3WN_8lqM6b_I36Z0VabHA)
- <https://vimeo.com/65867481>
- **MATERIALS**
- <https://funandfunction.com/>
- <http://www.nationalautismresources.com/toysandgames.html>

## Storytime #18

Theme: Spots

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Book/Song/Poem</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Hello Song		Puppet, name tags
Book	"Press Here" by Herve Tullet	Have each child press a button
Movement	Color Spots	Have children crawl/ jump/hop, etc. between spots
Song/Poem	"Five Little Ladybugs"	Give a picture of a ladybug to 5 children. Have each one sit down if possible.
Book	"Find Spot" by Stacey Previn	Find all the hidden spots on each page
Surprise Box	Garage sale "dot" stickers and paper	Make "spot" pages with stickers
Song/Poem	"Pretty Ladybugs" (sung to "The Muffin Man")	Have picture of ladybug without spots. Put black stickers on ladybug one at a time.
Book	"Dog's Colorful Day" by Emma Dodd	Felt spots and dog
Goodbye Song		Puppet

## Sensory Storytime

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Book/Song/Poem</u>	<u>Materials</u>
Hello Song		
Book		
Movement		
Song/Poem		
Book		
Surprise Box		
Song/Poem		
Book		
Goodbye Song		