LINC
LEADERSHIP FOR INCLUSION IN THE EARLY YEARS
CEANNAIREACHT DO CHUIMSIÚ SNA LUATHBHLIANTA

The LINC Programme is a higher education programme designed to promote the inclusion of all children in Early Childhood Settings across Ireland, for more information see www.lincprogramme.ie

BRINGING STORY-TIME AND BOOKS TO LIFE

It is really important to instill a love of books and stories in children from a very young age. Stories help to spark imagination and stimulate curiosity. Stories support many areas of development, including Language, Communication and Social Skills. However, sitting for story time can be difficult for some children, consider that music, dance and drama can also be used to enhance stories, and that stories can be enjoyed both indoors and outdoors. Here are some tips and ideas to bring those stories to life to ensure all children are included and have fun with stories!

Voice and tone, facial expression, emotions and actions

What? The tone and volume of your voice can engage children in the story, facial expressions and displaying emotions that reflect the story and the characters in the story are simple things Early Childhood Teachers can do to make the stories more interesting.

Why? When reading to young children it is really important to bring the story to life and keep children interested.

How? Vary your voice tone and volume. Use facial and hand expressions to support elements of the story to build suspense. Bring emotions in, simulate emotions, happy, scared, brave or sad and encourage the children to join. Use expressions and emotions; ask the children to name what they see or guess what might happen next in the story.

Puppets

What? Puppets, especially finger puppets allow young children to use their imagination and take on a character. They are great to hold a child's attention during story time.

Why? Using puppets to support stories encourages children to become involved and sparks imagination and makes the story fun and engaging.

How? You can make your own puppets, use puppets you have in your setting or use the puppet from the AIM play resource pack https://play.aim.gov.ie/resources/sockette-puppet/ The puppet can take on many characters depending on the story.

Story Sacks

What? A story sack is a large cloth bag containing a favourite child's book with supporting materials. It is important to pick an appropriate book to make a story sack.

Why? It will help to involve all children in the story; to stimulate language and make books and stories an enjoyable experience. It will also encourage turn taking and social interaction.

How? Get a drawstring bag. Choose an appropriate book. You can include just about anything that enhances the story and brings it to life, puppets, toys, cloth, straw, leaves.

Have a look at this clip, which will provide you with more information on developing a story sack https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyvSrWkUR28