

Reflective Tool: An Inclusive World Book Day Audit

This reflective tool can be used individually, in team discussions or as part of Inclusion Coordinator leadership in conversations.

Planning for World Book Day:

Calm, regulated adults are the most meaningful support that we can offer children, especially on days where there is excitement, change and unpredictability such as World Book Day. World Book Day does not need to feel busy to feel meaningful. Slowing down expectations, sharing responsibility and planning can help the day feel more manageable and enjoyable for both educators and children.

Children can be prepared for World Book Day by being included in the planning and sharing the information with families, ensuring that there is a low-pressure approach. The following reflective prompts can support teams to pause before and after World Book Day.

Reflecting on World Book Day

- What is the purpose of World Book Day in our setting?
- Does the day widen access or create pressure?
- How can we centre books rather than performance?
- What might we do less of?
- What might we do more slowly?

Reflection Notes:

Before World Book Day

In the days before World Book Day, you can talk with children and families about favourite stories, current interest and any supports that might help children to feel regulated during changes in routine. Within the setting, inclusion coordinators and educators can:

- Use visuals such as first and then boards
- Practice calming strategies already embedded in the routine
- Share a simple social story, if helpful.

Considering the children in your setting:

- Who participates easily in book experiences?
- Who watches from a distance?
- Which children may experience pressure during World Book Day expectations (costumes, routine change, noise)?
- How can books provide predictability, comfort and regulation?

Reflection Notes:

Role of the Inclusion Coordinator

- How do I support staff to see books as relational tools?
- What conversations about equity and access are needed?
- How are book choices made across the setting?
- How do we evaluate the impact of our reading culture over time?

Reflection Notes:

Key learning and next steps

- ✓ What worked particularly well on World Book Day?
- ✓ Which children seemed to connect with books in a new way?
- ✓ What would we keep the same next year?
- ✓ What would we change or simplify?
- ✓ Are there inclusive practices from the day we could embed into everyday practice?

Next steps/actions: