

Inclusive Early Learning Week 2016

Provider Celebration Tool Kit

A guide to classroom, staff and family activities that promote inclusive practices.



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning





Mission

The mission of DECAL's Inclusive Early Learning week is to increase community awareness, celebrate programs' successes and strengthen supports which promote inclusive practices among and within early learning environments across Georgia.

Goals

Increase Awareness: Bring awareness to what inclusion is and how it benefits children, early childhood professionals and the community.

Celebrate Success: Celebrate inclusive practices within early care and learning programs.

Strengthen Supports: Connect providers with resources and materials that promote inclusive practices.

Using the Provider Tool Kit

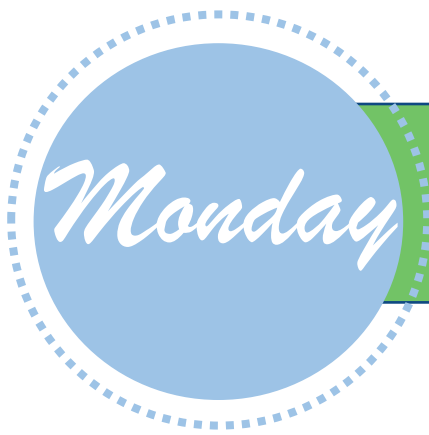
This toolkit is designed for programs to use as a guide as they plan to celebrate DECAL'S Inclusive Early Learning Week. Inside you will find daily themed activities to promote inclusive practices in the classroom, activities to engage staff members, as well as activities that encourage family collaboration during the week. These activities serve as a guide allowing you to choose the ones that best fit your program each day. We encourage you to use them as a springboard for adding and creating your own activities as well.

Social Media Contests

Post pictures of your program celebrating Inclusive Early Learning Week onto our social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) using the hashtag #IELW2016 to be entered into random drawings throughout the week. The winners will receive resources and materials that promote inclusive practices.

GAYC

Please join us as we conclude our celebration of Inclusive Early Learning Week at the GAYC Conference, September 23-24, 2016 at Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville, Georgia. There will be opportunities to take the Person First Language Pledge, have your picture taken with CALi in our photo booth, and attend a session with a special Guest Speaker.



Me Monday

Promoting Individuality

#IELW2016

Classroom Activities

Celebration Garden: Invite the children in your program or class to plant a celebration garden including flowers and plants with different characteristics. Ask children to describe how each plant is unique and describe their features. **SED1.4a**

Mirror Paint: Provide washable finger paint and an unbreakable mirror for each child. Have the children look in their mirrors and paint what they see. Once completed, have children compare their paintings. Tip: you can make an unbreakable mirror using cardboard wrapped in aluminum foil. **SED1.2a**

Only One Me: Teach children the following poem and use it as a ritual in your program or class to celebrate individuality and bring the group together:

In this whole, wide world
(Make a big circle with your arms.)
I can clearly see
(Finger around eyes, looking through.)
There is only one YOU
(Points to other person.)
And there is only one ME
(Point to self). **SED1.3d**

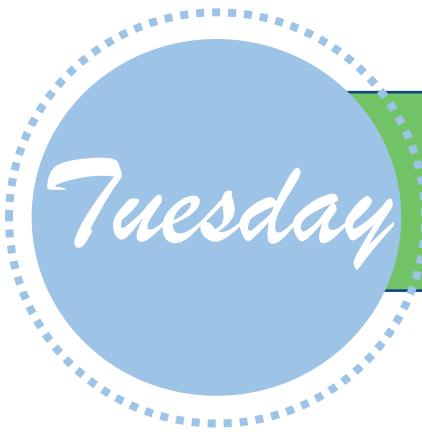
Program and Staff Activities

Inclusive Environment: Design your learning environment with items that support the development of all children in your setting. This can include visual cues (pictures) and large print object labels. You might also consider labeling items in the classroom with pictures, object cues, Spanish words, Braille, or other symbol system that supports the developmental needs of the children in your environment.

All About Me Book: Make a book that celebrates the uniqueness of all students in your program. Have the book on display in the entrance of your program for all families to view.

Family Engagement Activity

Family Puzzles: Snap a few pictures of the families in your program or classroom as they drop off or pick up each day. Print the pictures on card stock. Cut the pictures into simple puzzles. Send the puzzles home with children and encourage families to put their puzzles together and discuss the unique characteristics of their family. **SED1.4a**



Teamwork Tuesday

Working together to accomplish a goal

#IELW2016

Classroom Activities

Let's Paint Together: Cover a table or small floor area with butcher paper and provide washable paints, brushes, rollers, and sponges. Encourage the children to work together to paint. Describe what each child is doing. **APL5.2a**

Friend Bingo: Consider creating small boards with pictures of the children. The children play bingo taking turns calling the item to be placed on the game board. Encourage children to work together to find the different pictures of their friends. **APL5.4b**

Bubble Fun: Give the children bubble wands that are easy to use. Encourage them to find a partner and designate a blower and a popper. Use visual cues for each role as support, if needed. Switch roles when ready. For younger children provide each child with a wand and encourage them to blow and pop bubbles in pairs. Tip: you can create bubble wands by twisting pipe cleaners into shapes with handles. Quick and easy bubble solution can be made using 1 part tear free shampoo and 2 parts water. **SED5.3a**

Professional Development Activities

Inclusive Policy: Using the [Joint Position Statement on Inclusion](#), reflect on how you could incorporate these practices into your program. Perhaps discuss what the definition means in their program with staff at a meeting or training event. Consider charting responses and make a plan to celebrate successes and overcome barriers. Continue the discussion at each meeting.

People First Language Pledge: Take the [Person First Language Pledge](#) to commit to using Person First Language every day with the children and families you serve.

Family Engagement Activity

Create opportunities in your program for families to complete a project together (ex: simple cooking activity or building something simple, like a birdhouse). The idea is that everyone in the family will participate or contribute to the project in some way. These could be done in your program or classroom, or at a family event or in the family's home. Tip: Local home improvement stores like Home Depot and Lowes will generally donate birdhouse or simple building kits if you ask. **APL5.3b**



“One-derful” Wednesday

Creating classroom community

#IELW2016

Classroom Activities

Greeting Rituals: Establish a morning ritual with your class to show affection. Ask the children how they would like to be greeted. Examples might include a high-five, hug, foot tap, smile, or hip wiggle. Display visuals or pictures for each greeting. Children can then point to which greeting they would like as they arrive each day. These greetings can also be used as a way to say good-bye to their family or friends at drop off and pick up each day. **SED4.4c**

How We Get Help: Create a short story to teach children how to ask for help in the classroom. Keep the text simple and add pictures to match. Say, “When we play outside, we like to do lots of fun things. We can go down the slide on our bottoms. We can throw balls to our friends. Sometimes we get hurt on the playground. If you fall and can’t get up, ask a friend to get help for you. Friends can tell a teacher, ‘Chloe is hurt, please help.’ The teacher always makes us feel better when we are hurt.” **SED4.2d**

Rhythmic Painting Project: After reading *Read One Love* by Cedella Marley, play the song on the device of your choice and ask children to paint or draw what the music makes them think and feel. Ask them to explain their work and write their explanation for them before you put them on display. **SED2.3b**

Professional Development Activities

Program Luncheon: Host a luncheon or small celebration to honor program staff, families, and service providers (therapists) committed to inclusive education in your program.

Preschool Inclusion Self Checklist Complete the [program self-assessment](#) and track changes over time to identify strengths and weaknesses and plan next steps.

Family Engagement Activity

Family Quilt: Send home one piece of construction paper with each family. Encourage families to make a quilt square all about their family and return it to the program or classroom once they finish. Encourage families to use materials from around their home that illustrate their family (ex: pictures, food labels, stickers, game pieces, etc.). The more creative the better. As each family returns their quilt square, assemble them into a quilt by punching two holes on corresponding sides and tying together using yarn or string. Display your family quilt in your classroom or program for everyone to see. **SED1.4a**



Totally Talented Thursday

Showcase children's talents, special interests, or what makes them unique.

#IELW2016

Classroom Activities

Show and Share: After reading the book *I Can Do It Myself!* by Diane Adams, have each child show something he/she can do by him/herself. The children will take turns showing their peers what they can do by themselves. **APL1.4b**

What makes you a Spoon?: After reading *Spoon* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, create props using spoon, fork, butter knife wiggly eyes and markers to retell story or allow create puppets to look like themselves using wooden spoons. Discuss with how each puppet and child is unique and what makes them so unique. **SED1.3a**

Class Talent Show: Encourage each child to showcase one special talent, interest, or what makes them unique. Tip: For younger children, encourage them to choose their favorite item from around the program or classroom to show their friends. Help them share 1-2 things that make the item special to them. **SED1.3a**

Professional Development Activities

Team Talent Affirmations: – Provide each teacher with a small roll of masking tape. Throughout the day think of some unique and kind to say about fellow team member and write it on the tape and stick to their back. At the end of the day, teachers can share with each other the kind affirmations that were given to them.

5 Minute Personality Test: Using the [5 Minute Personality Test](#) handout, have staff answers all questions to see which animal best suits their personality. Compare traits and encourage discussion how each “animal” contributes to the success of the group.

Family Engagement Activity

Family Talent Show: Invite families to come in a share something that is important to their family – a special item, a special dish, and pictures of something they enjoy doing together. If families can't come in – they can send in pictures along with a short description to share. **SED4.4b**



Super Friend Friday

Being a great friend to everyone

#IELW2016

Classroom Activities

CALi is a SUPER Friend- Read CALi is a Super Friend, discuss additional ways that the children can be Super Friends in their classroom. Consider charting responses to post in the classroom. **SED5.4a**

Friendship Quilt: Create friendship cake (each child gets a small portion of cake mix and colors it with food coloring – then pours into cake pan to make rainbow cake, OR fruit salad/snack mix – each child brings in their favorite fruit or snack item and each child adds to create a fruit salad/snack mix. **SED5.4a**

Friendship Parade: Using old t-shirts, create capes for the children to decorate and wear. Have each the children showcase their “Super Friend” capes while walking around the program. **SED2.2b**

Professional Development Activities

Ice cream social: Provide ice cream and invite staff members and/or families to bring their favorite topping to share with the group.

20 Questions: “Interview” another staff member you do not typically work using the [20 Questions](#) for Colleagues handout. Share back a few new things with others.

Family Engagement Activity

Super Friends Everywhere: Send home a copy of [CALi is a Super Friend](#). This book will be available for download Wednesday afternoon. Encourage families to read the book and talk with their child about how they are a Super Friend at school and at home. **SED5.4a**