

March 9, 2021

### Inclusive Learning Environments for Infants and Toddlers

**Host**  
Treshawn Anderson, NCECDTL

**Host**  
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### Inclusion & Belonging



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### Inclusion & Belonging



3 Infant Toddler Episodes

3 Preschool Episodes

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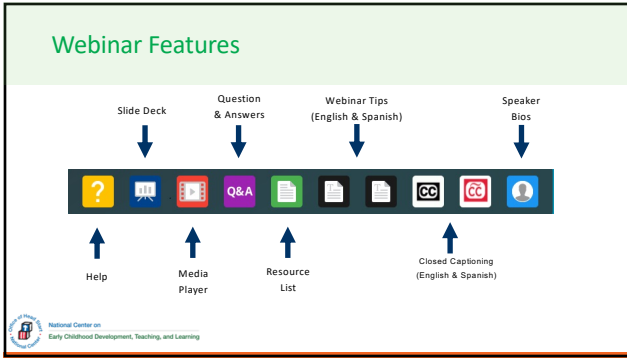
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**Viewer's Guide**

Learning Environment for All Children and Families  
March 9, 2021  
Webinar Title

This webinar guide gives you ideas for creating environments for all children and families. The activities, questions, and activities are designed to help you think about other options for learning. Help resources can be found in the Resource section of this guide.

**Definition of Early Childhood Inclusion**

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) together provided a shared definition of what inclusion means and looks like in early learning environments.

Early childhood inclusion involves the social, academic, and physical participation of all children and families, and ensuring that support is right for each child and family and all of the adults who support them. Inclusion is a broad range of activities and services that support the social, academic, and physical participation of all children and families.

The social reality of inclusion requires the center to use various strategies and services to support social belonging and membership, quality social relationships, and meaningful participation for all children and families. The strategies and services used to support inclusion are based on the needs of children and families and are tailored to their individual needs and strengths.

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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.

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### Inclusive Learning Environments



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

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Inclusion = Practice

Belonging = Feeling



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Inclusive Learning Environments



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Video  
Disability Law Video

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Inclusion & Belonging in  
the Infant Toddler  
Learning Environment

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“...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

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### Access

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

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### Participation

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

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**Supports**

Educators partner closely with families and work together within a broader system of community supports and specialized services.

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**Access**



Access to a wide range of learning opportunities, activities, settings, and environment.

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**Video**

High-Quality Learning Environments

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### Video

#### High-Quality Learning Environments

- Move about freely
- Access to materials
- Engaging interactions

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### 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

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### 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**

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### Safe and Supportive Physical Environment

- Protected spaces for independent play

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### Safe and Supportive Physical Environment

- Protected spaces for independent play
- Comfortable, padded, away from lines of traffic

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### Safe and Supportive Physical Environment

- Protected spaces for independent play
- Comfortable, padded, away from lines of traffic
- Quiet, intimate, soft spaces for social-emotional support

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**Safe and Supportive Physical Environment**

- Active exploration!

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**Safe and Supportive Physical Environment**

- Active exploration!
- Arrange furniture for zoning

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**Safe and Supportive Physical Environment**

- Active exploration!
- Arrange furniture for zoning
- Create space for adaptive devices

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### Safe and Supportive Physical Environment

- Active exploration!
- Arrange furniture for zoning
- Create space for adaptive devices
- Comfortable for you, too!

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### Small Changes - Big Impact

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### Small Changes – Big Impact



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### Modification Moment



Use a pillow or roll up a towel and place it under the infant's arms to support their back and neck

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### Predictable Schedule and Routines

Includes:

- Caregiving routines
- Transitions
- Learning activities



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### Predictable Schedule and Routines



Be prepared to adjust activities to fit individual children's rhythms and caregiving needs.

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Predictable Schedule and Routines



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Predictable Schedule and Routines



Add additional time for routines and caregiving needs.

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Predictable Schedule and Routines



Be flexible. Follow the children's interests.

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**Video**  
Predictable Schedule and Routines

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**Video**  
Predictable Schedule and Routines

- Narrated each step
- Counted many times
- Labeled items
- Engaged with child
- Prepared the child for what was coming next.

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**Engaging Interactions & Meaningful Learning Experiences**

- Sensitive and responsive interactions promote security and belonging.
- Sensitive and responsive interactions =
  - Pay close attention
  - Respond appropriately to children's cues

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### Engaging Interactions & Meaningful Learning Experiences

- Observe infants playing
- Learn about their interests
- Join in, if appropriate
- Narrate what infants are doing

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### Engaging Interactions & Meaningful Learning Experiences

- Build on toddler's explorations
- Ask questions
- Offer new vocabulary
- Bring new materials to expand their learning

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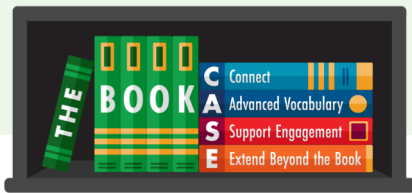
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How books:

- Connect children to learning opportunities
- Provide advanced vocabulary
- Support engagement
- And how you extend learning beyond the book!

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**BookCASE**



**Say Hello!**  
by Rachel Isadora

**We Are Family**  
by Patricia Hegarty

**Everywhere Babies**  
by Susan Meyers

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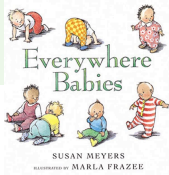
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**Exploring the BOOKCASE**



**Everywhere Babies**  
by Susan Meyers

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**All About You**



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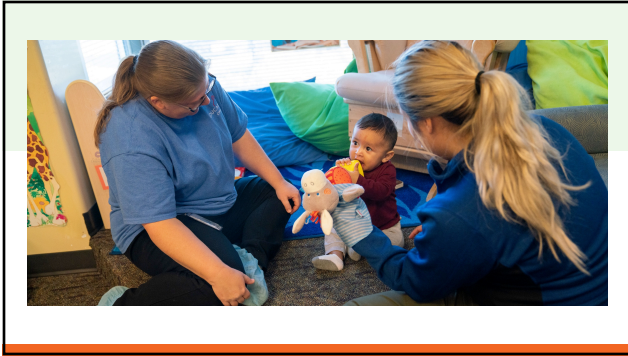
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Helpful Resources







Text4Teachers



ELOF2GO  
Your Mobile ELOF  
Ages Birth to Five



Ready  
DLL



National Center on  
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

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Save The Date

Join us for our next episodes:

March 16, 2021  
Learning Environments for Preschoolers

April 9, 2021  
Learning Materials that Promote Inclusion for Infants and Toddlers



National Center on  
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

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Question & Answer Time



 National Center on  
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

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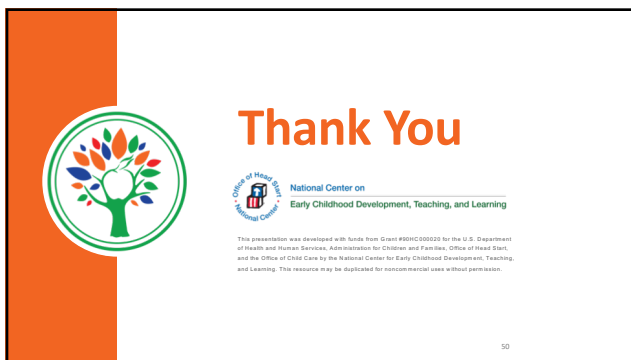
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 **Thank You**

 National Center on  
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

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