

Sample Digital Sensory Storytime

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Environment is important for success:

- Hard chairs with sides where child's feet touch the ground help child feel grounded. Chairs should be spaced so that care giver can sit on the ground beside child in between chairs for children.
- The less distractions the better (includes visual on walls, outside windows, etc. and sounds from other parts of the library, especially bathroom sounds).
- Removable half wall in space away from group, but in sight of group, for child who needs a break.
- No name tag stickers. This is often a difficult sensory issue for children with autism.

5 min prior to storytime - Arrival, parent sign in with email address to receive Social Story email. Provide Green Eggs and Ham print copy, green seek and find bags, and/or squishy ball for wait time. (Fine motor and sensory skills)

2 min. – Ask everyone to take seats orally, show “sit” icon on iPad and interactive white board. Also have “sit” icon in print on ring for child who is struggling. Introduce myself, make caregivers aware of break area, and ask children to return seek and find bags/sensory ball. (If they don't comply with this, it is OK. These are specifically things that won't distract others/make noise during the program.)

Sing welcome song:

(Child's name), (child's name) if you're here, put your hand up in the air (tune of *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*). Prompt caregiver to help child raise hand at appropriate time if not participating. (Name recognition and social skills) Introduce schedule in print and through Story Creator e-book social story that has been e-mailed to parents ahead of time. Remove icon on schedule for “sing”.

8 min. – Using “read to me” function on iPad to read Green Eggs and Ham by Oceanhouse Media on iPad projected on whiteboard. Turn pages manually at desired rate or use “auto play” for this portion. Using “options” on screen turn off “Hear Sound Effects” so music is not playing in the background during reading. (Literacy skills) Remove icon on schedule for “Green Eggs and Ham story”.

5 min. – Using “read to me” function on iPad go through most pages of Green Eggs and Ham again, but this time take iPad up to individual child and ask them to touch an object on the screen that is in the text on that page. The text on the page will “jump” to the object and hover over it while “read to me” reads the word. All the children will see the word jump while each child takes a turn touching a picture that I prompt. If child does not understand, use “hand over hand” to help them touch the picture to get the response. Only one iPad is used and I have control over it at all times. Use “pages” function to flip through certain pages of the story having children pick out pictures you ask them to and make the word jump on top of the picture. (Word recognition and turn taking skills) Remove icon on schedule for “Green Eggs and Ham activity”.

5 min. – Show children a green, plastic Easter egg. Tell them they hidden around the room and have a prize in them. Prompt children to stand and caregivers to help them find an egg. If one child find eggs easily work on sharing with this child, using the print sharing icon on ring and helping them give the extra eggs to a specific child who is not finding eggs. Don't let them pick who egg will be shared with because that is a high level social skill and is not as concrete as "Share the egg with ____." Each child should have on egg and should open it and take out the car inside. (Visual processing and motor skills) Remove icon on schedule for "Green egg hung".

8 min. – Roll out several road play mats for children to use to play with their cars. Prompt caregivers to use skills learned in social skills groups to help children play with cars together. Use visual timer with multiple reminders before time is up. When timer goes off roll up mats and asks children to go back to seats. Put the "sit" icon on the iPad and white board. The cars are a take home so they should keep them with them. (Fine motor and social skills) Remove icon for "car play" from schedule.

2 min. – Sing goodbye song ("Open, Shut Them") and remind caregivers to pick up a take home sheet on the way out. Remove icon for "sing" from schedule.

Open, Shut Them

Open, shut them. (Open shut fingers)

Open, shut them.

Give a little clap, clap, clap. (Clap)

Open, shut them. (Open shut fingers)

Open, shut them.

Put them in your lap, lap, lap. (Hands in lap)

Wave them, wave them, (Wave goodbye)

Wave them, wave them,

High up in the sky, sky, sky.

Wave to me, I'll wave to you,

Let's all say "Bye, bye."