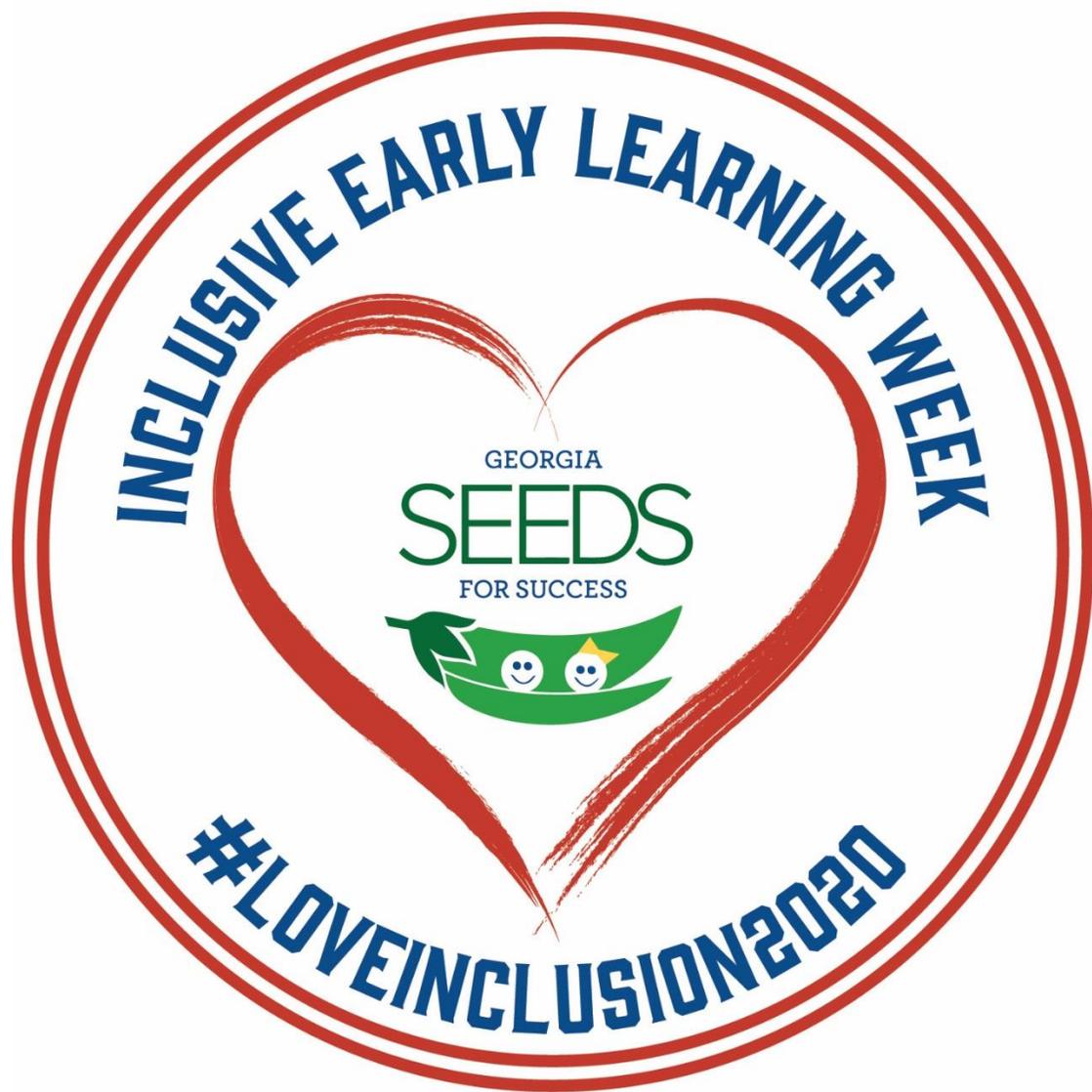


Celebration Toolkit
Inclusive Early Learning Week
February 10-14, 2020



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



The mission of DECAL's Inclusive Early Learning week is to promote inclusive practices within early learning environments across Georgia

Inclusive Early Learning Week

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 Celebration Toolkit

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 designed 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 in celebration of Inclusive Early Learning Week as well.

Social Media

Post pictures of your program celebrating Inclusive Early Learning Week onto our social media pages ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), etc.) using the hashtag **#LoveInclusion2020** to show others how you are celebrating.

Friendship Artwork Contest



It's easy to enter to **WIN!** Post ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), etc.) or email (inclusion@decalfga.gov) pictures of children working together on an art project or a picture of the finished art project. Choose an art project that helps teach about friendship skills and community. Each post is a separate entry, so post away! Winners will be randomly drawn, so the more entries you have the better your odds of winning! Make sure to use the hashtag **#LoveInclusion2020** on social media to be entered. There are several examples of art activities in the celebration toolkit or you can create your own activity.



Marvelous ME Monday

Promoting Individuality

#LoveInclusion2020

Classroom Activities

Infants and Toddlers:

I Spy: As you are feeding or changing infants, play "I Spy" using the infant's name and individual characteristics. Say, "I spy a little boy in a green shirt. Tug has brown hair and brown eyes. I see you, Tug." **SED1.0b**

Voices All Around: Record a familiar teacher or family member singing a children's song or reading a favorite book. Play this for the infant at different times of the day as a lullaby for naptime or to introduce story time. **APL1.0a**

Preschool and Pre-K:

Mirror Play: Provide individual, unbreakable mirrors. Encourage the children to explore looking into the mirror. Use descriptive words to talk with them about what they see. Discuss different emotion words and practice making feeling faces. **CD-CR2.1b**

Classroom Cultures: Have family members of the children or have community volunteers visit the class and share information about their culture. This could be done in large group. Discuss your own classroom community and culture. **CD-SS2.4c**

Program and Staff Activity

The Common Book: Make a large, blank journal or scrapbook available in the break room or other common areas. The book may have prompts on each page, asking questions or suggesting things to write or draw. Or, you may have guidelines printed and displayed next to the book. Leave pens, markers, tape, and other items that your team can use to write and draw in the book. Encourage them to write down quotes from things they are reading or from team members, to write about a fun event that happened at work, tape or glue anything that helps record the team's culture.

Family Engagement Activity

Feeling Faces: Encourage families to look through their favorite book with their child and describe the different feeling faces and how the characters might respond to different situations. Invite families to bring a book and read it with the class. **CLL3.4b**



Tremendous TEAMwork Tuesday

Working together to accomplish a goal

#LoveInclusion2020

Classroom Activities

Infants and Toddlers:

This is How I Feel: Take pictures of the infants in the room showing a variety of emotions. Print the pictures and display them low on a wall for the infants to see. Point to the pictures and describe the emotion: "Marcus is laughing. He looks happy." **CLL3.0b**

Preschool and Pre-K:

Silly Steps: Make a game of multi-step directions by having partners work together to follow all the silly directions you give such as, "put your arm around your friend's shoulder," or "stand on one foot." This could be done in large group. **CLL1.4b**

Bright Idea: When developing multi-step directions for the children in your class, provide visual cues and consider using action steps that all the children can do to participate.

Program and Staff Activity

Show and Tell: Get to know each other better by sharing the things you love. Set aside a regular day and place to display staff "show and tell." Let each staff member bring a picture or item they would like to share. Each staff can share the story of their item and display it for the day, then allow another team member to share their own item for a day.

Family Engagement Activity

Nighttime Routines: Share helpful suggestions to families about activities, sounds or objects that can help their child feel calm and restful during the hour before bedtime. These activities can become a part of their nightly routine! Reading books, listening to soft, calming music, or giving their child their favorite blanket or stuffed animal will all help them to understand that it is time to calm down and prepare for sleep. Taking a few moments every day to bond while bathing, snuggling or reading to children helps them feel safe, secure and loved. **SED3.4b**



Awesome FRIENDS Day Wednesday

Creating classroom community

#LoveInclusion2020

Classroom Activities

Infants and Toddlers:

Musical Friends: Play lively music and encourage the children to dance freely. Pause the music and have each child find a partner. Direct the children to greet their partners with a wave, hug, high five, low five, fist bump or other appropriate greeting. **PDM3.3a**

Preschool and Pre-K:

Friendship Fruit Salad: You will need a large mixing bowl and a spoon. Ask each child to bring his/her favorite fruit to school. Wash and cut fruit into small pieces. In small groups, encourage the children to create their own recipe for a friendship fruit salad by combining the different fruit that each person brought to share: 1 cup of Alex's pineapple, 1 cup of Maria's banana. Encourage the children's language by prompting them to request different fruits to add to the recipe. For example, "Alex can you add your pineapple to our fruit salad?" Write the recipe down and share with families. **SED5.3e**

Friendship Mural: Tape a large sheet of freezer paper to the table, shiny side up. Provide finger paint. Encourage the children to make a group mural. **APL3.1a**

Program and Staff Activity

Team Memories: Create a Memory Wall in your center. Add pictures or stories about shared events and special moments. Let your staff add to the wall throughout the year and leave them up to reflect on wonderful moments spent together.

Family Engagement Activity

Magical Moments: Encourage the children to point to the pictures and sing along identifying each person: "Where is Jane? Where is Jane? There she is. There she is..." **SED1.0b**



Totally TALENTED

Thursday

Celebrating talents and interests

#LoveInclusion2020

Classroom Activities

Infants and Toddlers:

Ring around the Hoop: Have four or five children hold a single hula-hoop as they walk in a circle singing "Ring Around the Rosie." Begin by having the children hold the hoop with both hands, then later with one hand as their motor skills develop. **APL5.1a**

Preschool and Pre-K:

Sharing Ideas: Providing opportunities for imaginary play is an important activity for practicing many social-emotional skills. Encourage the children to make up stories and songs, draft playmates as characters and turn sticks into magic wands in the dramatic play center. During these activities encourage children to take turns, compromise and share materials. **SED3.4c**

Simon Says: During outdoor time, on the sidewalk draw large letters, numbers and shapes. Then, play Simon Says by giving the children a sequence of things to do: Stand on number 3, then run to the letter. You can increase the sequence as they improve their listening skills. **CD-SS5.4a**

Program and Staff Activity

Social Emotional Competence: Identify your strengths in the practice of teaching Social Emotional Skills in the classroom. Uncover your talents by using tools that can empower you in your work. Help coworkers by identifying how those qualities can help them become a "mentor" to new staff members.

Family Engagement Activity

My Turn Please: Encourage families to play games that require turn-taking with their child. Board games are a perfect way to teach older preschool children how to wait for a turn. Outside games, such as basketball or catch, are also ideal games to practice taking turns. For toddlers and twos, use very simple turn-taking games such as rolling a ball or a car back and forth. **SED5.1c**



Super FRIEND Friday

Being a great friend to everyone

#LoveInclusion2020

Classroom Activities

Infants and Toddlers:

Basket Play: Provide baskets of various shapes, colors and sizes. Place items such as textured balls, scarves, water bottle shakers and soft toddler blocks in separate baskets. Model how to pour out and explore the items. Pique the children’s interest by chanting, “A tisket, a tasket, what is in the basket?” As the children pour the items on the floor, describe the items you see. Have the children place the items back in the basket and pour them out again. **CD-SC1.1a**

Preschool and Pre-K:

Introductions: During circle time, discuss the idea of meeting someone new such as an adult or a teacher. Practice steps on how to introduce yourself and engage in conversation. Practice this skill by role playing as a group with all the children. **SED4.3a**

Program and Staff Activity

Bucket-filler Bulletin Board: Throughout the week encourage parents to write positive notes to their child’s teacher. This could be via written notes posted on a bulletin board. Add positive statements as often as possible. Post these cards in plain sight to remind yourself of what motivates you to support children and families every day.

Family Engagement Activity

Supporting Children’s Play: Encourage families to talk to their children about emotions and friendship skills. Model the conversations at drop off and pick up. For example: “Molly, you look so happy coming to school today! I can see you smiling!” or “Sam, thank you for waiting your turn, that is so patient!” Remind parents how they can have similar interactions at home or on play dates. They can also read [CALi Is a Super Friend](#) with their child at home.