

## INCLUSION STRATEGIES & TOOLS

# Setting Up For Success: Physical Space

### What is the impact of physical space?

Creating a welcoming, stimulating and inclusive environment allows all children to feel supported, accepted and valued.

### Reflective Questions

Are different play areas set up in the room?

Does the environment foster independence and a sense of inclusion?

Are there enough toys and materials to keep all the children occupied?

Do all children use the different areas?

### Where to find materials?

- Value Village, Saint Vincent de Paul, The Salvation Army, Boomerang Kids, "Buy Nothing" Facebook groups
- Ask for donations from parents/community (e.g. spare parts, sheets, pots, wood, etc.)



## Checklist



### Clearly defined interior and exterior spaces

- ☐ Use furniture and rugs to clearly define play areas (e.g., dramatic play area, reading corner, construction area, crafts, table games, etc.).
- ☐ Organize materials on shelves/carts using bins, baskets and labels with photos or words.
- ☐ Find a balance between active and quiet play areas
- ☐ Designate storage space for long-term projects.
- ☐ Create an organized and accessible place for children's personal belongings, using solutions such as, lockers labeled with children's names, individual baskets or hooks in a common area.

### Set-up, materials and activities that reflect children's interests and needs

- ☐ Provide basic materials: craft materials, card games, books, construction toys, board games, outdoor play equipment.
- ☐ Create invitations to play by placing materials on tables upon arrival to encourage play and exploration.
- ☐ Set up specific areas or plan activities based on children's interests (e.g., a dinosaur sensory bin, a superhero corner, a hair salon, a Pokémon Bingo game, etc.).
- ☐ Provide sensory materials and activities throughout the day (e.g., sensory bins, a play area or high motor equipment, an obstacle course followed by a quiet drawing or reading activity, etc.).

### Have a welcoming and accessible relaxation area available to support regulation

- ☐ Set up a calming tent or large box with cushions or stuffed animals, books and sensory objects.
- ☐ A calm bag or bin can also meet children's needs during outings, outdoor play, or in the gym.

