Learning Through Play
Connecting To Culture Through Storytelling

Objectives:
- To understand why telling stories is important in ECD programmes
- To see what strategies the teacher uses to tell a story
- To observe the core components of Literacy Circle

What is story telling?
Storytelling can be used to tell local and traditional stories that may not be written down but passed down from one generation to the next through storytelling.

Why is story telling important in ECD programmes?
- Storytelling provides an opportunity for community members, caregivers and elders to visit the programme, interact with the children, linking the community and the ECD programme.
- Through stories, children can learn more about life, culture, the world, and their community.
- The teacher can concentrate on telling the story and does not need to hold the book.
- Children see the teacher using different facial expressions and hear the different tones in the teacher’s voice as they tell the story.

How to tell a story?
- Practice the story several times before telling the story to the children.
- Seat children so everyone can see the teacher’s face.
- Tell the story at a good pace so the children can follow what is happening in the story, use good expression and fluency.
- Ask the children to predict what they think will happen in the story.
- When the story is finished, the teacher can review the story with the children by asking questions about the main events in the story.

Using Props in Stories for Children with Diverse Needs
- The video shows the principles of universal design for activities in action. The teacher has made some finger puppets to use during the story telling to help focus the children’s attention.
- The teacher can tell the story to children with diverse needs before they tell the story to the group of children so the child is familiar with the story more easily.
- The teacher can choose stories with repetitive phrases to engage the children in the story. They can learn the words and add them at the appropriate place in the story.

Reflection questions for teachers about story telling with children
- What strategies do you use to engage children in storytelling?
- How do you choose stories that are inclusive of all children in your group?
- What did you learn from the video that you will add to your daily practice to do storytelling with children?