

10 Ideas for Making a Classroom Inclusive

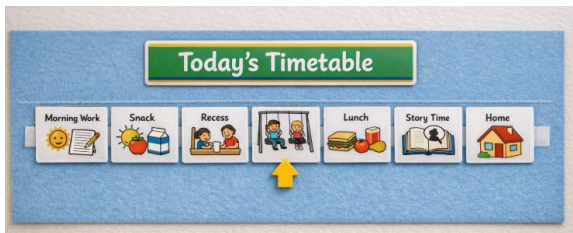
1. Flexible Seating

Offer a variety of seating options such as bean bags, wobble stools, and floor cushions. Flexible seating supports different learning styles and sensory needs, allowing students to choose where they work best.



2. Visual Timetables

Use visual timetables with symbol cards and Velcro-backed icons to support students who benefit from structure and predictability. These tools help reduce anxiety and increase independence, especially for students with autism, executive functioning and processing needs.



3. Diverse Classroom Library

Create a classroom library that includes books featuring characters of different races, abilities, and cultures. Representation matters—students are more engaged when they see themselves and others reflected in the materials they read.



4. Sensory Corner

Designate a sensory-friendly space with soft lighting, fidget tools, and noise-canceling headphones. This area provides a calming retreat for students who may become overwhelmed, supporting self-regulation and emotional well-being. A dark den or enclosed space may also be beneficial for students.

5. Assistive Communication Tools

Incorporate AAC devices and PECs cards to support students with communication challenges. These tools enable all students to participate in group work and classroom discussions, fostering inclusion and understanding.





6. Makaton Integration

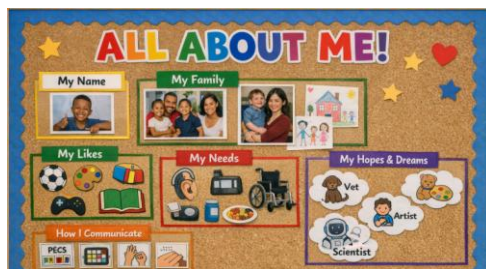
Use Makaton alongside spoken instruction to support students with hearing impairments and promote inclusive communication. Teaching basic signs to all students fosters empathy and broadens communication options.

7. Peer Collaboration

Encourage group work at round tables with students of mixed abilities. Peer collaboration builds social skills, fosters mutual respect, and allows students to learn from each other's strengths.



8.



Inclusive Student Work Displays

Showcase student work that reflects inclusive themes, such as 'All About Me' posters. This celebrates diversity and helps students feel valued and represented in the classroom environment.

9. Accessible Classroom Layout

Ensure the classroom layout is wheelchair-accessible and includes adjustable-height desks. Make sure your environment is not too busy and cluttered for those who may find navigating around the classroom more challenging. An accessible environment allows all students to move freely and participate fully in classroom activities.

10. Inclusive Classroom Rules

Create a bulletin board with inclusive classroom rules using visuals, such as 'Be Kind', 'Help Others', and 'Use Your Words'. Visual rules support understanding and reinforce positive behavior for all learners.