

Resources within Reason

Gumdrops to Support Inclusion

Camille Catlett

August 2020

Gumdrops are short, engaging videos that pack a content punch. Gumdrops can be used to introduce a topic by illustrating an important concept, to add a new perspective to a conversation, or to connect what you see to conversations that connect to inclusion policies, positions, and practices.

As a result of COVID-19, opportunities for young children with or at risk for disabilities to interact with their peers in inclusive settings are fewer. Thus, keeping a focus on inclusion may be even more important. Here are some gumdrops to help you to do that, along with ideas about how to use each gumdrop.

5th Graders Fight to Include Friend

This 47-second video details the story of a group of 5th graders in an inclusive classroom who successfully advocated to keep a friend from being sent to a segregated program. **POSSIBLE USE:** This is a great clip to use for backwards brainstorming. Show the clip, then ask viewers to identify all the things that would need to happen for this story to occur. Consider the prior experiences of the children with quality inclusion, the preparation of the teachers to provide quality inclusive learning opportunities, and the success of Brady's family and therapists in supporting his successful inclusion. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaoJe4ntfa0>

When the Best of Us Steps Up

This 1-minute gumdrop underscores the importance of inclusion in home and community settings. **POSSIBLE USE:** This is a great gumdrop for discussing all the possible contexts for inclusion that move beyond the classroom: home, driveways, community, faith centers, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFuwUiHo-WI>

Dear Teacher

In less than 2 minutes, the children in this video identify ways in which adults can help them to be included. **POSSIBLE USE:** This is a great gumdrop for connecting with the DEC Recommended Practices. After watching, ask viewers to identify specific DEC recommended practices that are being requested by each of the children. Then discuss ways in which to incorporate those practices in early childhood settings to promote inclusion.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITMLzXzgB_s

The Myth of Average

If the word “average” is still one in your repertoire, this video may provide evidence to change your mind. It also offers compelling ideas about differing abilities.

POSSIBLE USE: Stop at 5:55 and discuss the implications for early childhood and early childhood special education colleagues to completely eliminate the concept of normal. Or, show the entire video and lead a conversation about how to prepare future educators to recognize and support children with very different abilities. If you play the entire video, you'll get to hear how the high school drop-out delivering the message ultimately became a Harvard faculty member.

<https://www.tedxsonomacounty.com/portfolio-item/the-myth-of-average-todd-rose-at-tedxsonomacounty/>

Bowling for Inclusion

In this 3-minute gumdrop, Shelley Moore successfully and skillfully reveals the relationship between bowling and inclusion. **POSSIBLE USE:** This is a great video for introducing the practices of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Or for promoting a conversation in an early childhood course about how to be prepared to support the “outlying pins.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYtUIU8MjIY>

Inclusion in a Neighborhood

This 3-minute news story highlights what inclusion can look and feel like in a neighborhood. **POSSIBLE USE:** Use this gumdrop to support a conversation about the many settings in which inclusion is needed to support an individual child. Or, use this gumdrop to inspire conversations about how to promote inclusion at the home, neighborhood, and community level.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/community-learns-sign-language-to-engage-with-2-year-old-girl/>

Resources within Reason is a free, one-way listserv provided by the Division for Early Childhood (DEC). All resources are evidence-based, readily available and free.

Resources within Reason may be freely shared or reproduced. Past issues may be accessed at <http://www.dec-sped.org/resources-within-reason>

Want to receive this listserv directly? Go to <http://www.dec-sped.org/resources-within-reason> and click “Join the Listserv”.