



Remember: Small group time provides an opportunity to introduce and develop children's listening and interaction skills. Using child initiated topics and keeping it short will make this time more successful.

- How long is your group time _____?
- When is your group time (right before lunch is not always a good time as children are tired and hungry)?
- Can the length be altered?
- Do you keep the time frame flexible based on your groups needs?
- Do you have all your supplies prepared and ready to use before group time starts?
- Does each child have enough physical space to avoid crowding?
- Do you designate spots to sit (mat, mouse pad, X on the floor)?
- Do you incorporate music?
- Do you only read one story or do you read too many stories at one sitting?
- Is the book that you are reading age appropriate (toddlers – fewer words, larger pictures)?
- Do you use animated facial expressions and voice tones (high / low tones, whispering, funny sound effects)?
- Do you encourage children to choose songs, games, etc.?
- Do you use visual cues and strategies (props, talking stick, raise hand picture, sit picture, mini schedule)?
- Do you play active games (Farmer in the Dell, Grand Old Duke of York, Punchinello, Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, etc.)?
- Have you established consistent and predictable expectations (can children bring toys, can the children leave when they want to, etc.)?
- Do you use fidget toys (squishy balls, stretchy animals)?

- Is there two educators available for small group?
- Do you provide opportunities for children to learn the song (sing same song on multiple days, same opening song)?
- Do you give yourself the opportunity to switch activities (song, book, fingerplay) if the children are not interested?
- Do you praise and encourage positive behaviours?
- Do you have fun?

This sheet was created by the All Kids Belong team based on their years of knowledge and experience. If you have any further questions about group time, please talk to your All Kids Belong Resource Consultant.