**Serving the Underserved: Children with Disabilities at Your Library – Learner Guide**

<http://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/serving-the-underserved-children.html>

**Event Description:** Whether large or small, rural or urban, all library communities serve patrons with special needs. Developing an awareness of and sensitivity to children with disabilities is crucial for providing top-notch library services. This webinar shares inspiring programming and innovative ideas for new services to target this special population. Learn about what online resources are available for staff to serve children with special needs more fully, and explore strategies to reevaluate and make new accommodations in existing youth programs for an inclusive audience.

**Presented by:** Renee Grassi, Youth Department Director, Glen Ellyn Public Library, Illinois

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |

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| **Discussion/Reflection Question 1** | |
| Renee suggests that you and your team begin by understanding the needs of your community. What information do you have about children with special needs? How could you learn more? How do you use the information you’ve gathered? | |
| **Activity 1** | |
| Make a list of potential community partners, both formal and informal, that you might connect with to work towards serving children with special needs:  1.  2.  3.  4.  **y** | |
| **Activity 2** | |
| Review the [People First Language Chart](http://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/2014-10/People-First-Chart.pdf). Make a list of those descriptors that you use, paired with those that you should consider using instead.  1.  2.  3.  4. | |
| **Discussion/Reflection Question 2** |
| Renee presented the benefits and drawbacks of both targeted and inclusion programs. Which programs would work best for your library and community? Why? |
| **Activity 3** |
| Make a list of service or program improvements you would like to bring to your library, and consider who of the partners you identified above could be involved, and in what ways. Do other partners or collaborators come to mind?  1.  2.  3.  4. |

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| **Action Plan:** (include next steps, who, when, etc.) |
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