

# Serving the Underserved

## Children with Disabilities At Your Library

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# Overview of Today's Webinar

- The “Why?”
- Where Do You Begin?
- Inclusive Customer Service Tips
- Programming
- Making Accommodations
- Service Ideas
- Print and Online Resources

# Awareness in October



# Why serve the underserved?

- To support a traditionally underserved group
- To provide inclusion to those who might feel isolated
- To support opportunities for learning, social interaction, and connection among families
- To advocate for your library to non-users
- To be responsive to your community's needs
- To fulfill the mission of your public library

# Why serve the underserved?

- 56.7 million people, 18.7% had a disability in 2010
- 38.3 million people, 12.6 % had a severe disability
- 27% of U.S. adults live with a disability that interferes with activities of daily living
- 1 in every 68 are born with Autism
- 56% of students with ASD finish high school



**Pew Internet**  
Pew Internet & American Life Project

**Let's hear from you!**

*What's your "why?"*  
*Why are you here today?*

# Where do you begin?

## Disability Awareness Training



# Where do you begin?

## Community Needs Assessment

What information  
do you gather?

How do you distribute it?

What incentives do you  
offer?

What does this inform?



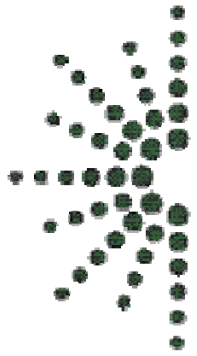


# Where do you begin? Identify Partners



# Where do you begin?

## Secure Funding



INSTITUTE of  
**Museum and Library**  
SERVICES



**BetterWorldBooks**<sup>®</sup>



**Children's Fund**



A M E R I C A



**DOLLAR GENERAL**<sup>®</sup>  
LITERACY FOUNDATION

# Inclusive Customer Service Tips

Use Person First Language

Adjust Your Mindset

Be Patient, Be Flexible

Ask Simple Questions

Offer Choices

Encourage Comments and Suggestions

**Let's hear from you!**

*What programs have you offered  
at your library for children  
with special needs?*

# Methodology Behind Programming

Benefits of Targeted Programs

Drawbacks to Targeted Programs?



Benefits of Inclusion

Drawbacks to  
Inclusion Programs?

# Spectrum of Special Needs Programs

**Inclusive** ←

Playgroups  
Movies & Music  
Stage Performances  
Gaming  
Social Clubs  
Arts and Crafts  
Cooking Programs  
Exercise  
Life Skills

Sensory Storytime  
Read to Rover  
Sensory Friendly Films  
Sensory Performances  
Buddy Programs  
Special Ed. Class Visits  
Sensory Play Programs  
Library Tours

→ **Targeted**



# Sensory Storytime

## Program Guidelines

- Series of four programs scheduled weekly Saturdays at 2 pm
- Length: 1 hour long with 30 min. for storytime & 30 min. for play
- Audience: children chronological ages 4 to 8 (w/ parent/caregiver)
- Program capacity: 10 children
- Advanced registration required with questionnaire
- Initial funding received from Target's "Early Childhood Reading" Grant
- Program Title: Sensory Storytime--Stories & Emergent Literacy Activities for Children with Special Needs



## Program Outline

- Review Boardmaker schedule
- "Hello" to each child
- Intro Song
- Book
- Song
- Flannel Board Activity
- Book
- Song
- Playtime
- Bubbles
- Song
- "Wave Goodbye" by Rob Reid



# Sensory Storytime





# Sensory Storytime with Lekotek



*Inclusive Sensory Play*

# Sensory Storytime with Lekotek



*Movement & Crafts*



# Read to Rover



- Local non-profit volunteer organization
- Utilizes TDI certified therapy dogs that work in schools, nursing homes, at-risk youth facilities, and assisted living facilities
- Provides emotional support through animal-assisted therapy

## Program Outline

- 1 hr. storytime programs
- 30 min. storytime & 30 min. stations with crafts and dog-themed activities
- Programs targeted children ages of 5–8 and 8–16
- Themes (Dogs, Animals, Colors)



# Sensory Friendly Film

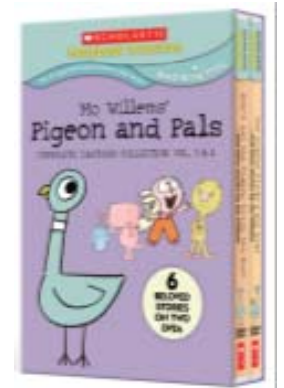


## Format

- Based on AMC's "Sensory Friendly Films" for kids with autism
- Children of all ages and abilities with family members
- No registration required—drop-in

## Room setup

- Room is lighter with low volume
- Closed captioning on during movie
- Audience welcome to move around, talk and sing
- TV monitor with chairs arranged in auditorium style
- Large aisles and walkways in between chairs for accessibility
- Movie tie-in books available for reading and checkout
- Fidgets, manipulatives, and puzzles made available
- Noise cancelling headphones



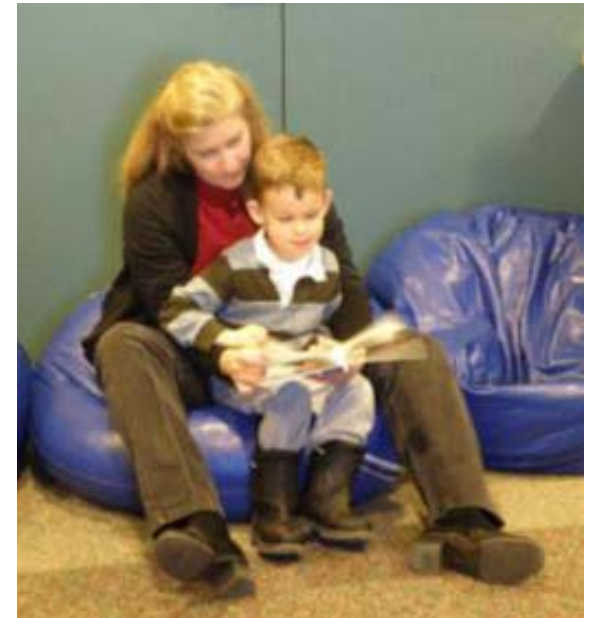
# Special Education Class Visits





# Smart Starts

- Provides a hands-on, interactive environment where children develop early reading, writing, and math skills through open-ended play
- Program promoted as “fun activities that build young brains!”
- Hosted three times a week with weekly themes for a 4-week series
- Designed for children ages 3 to 8 of all abilities with parent or caregiver
- Drop-in format with 6-8 stations around program room
- Crafts, games, and exploratory/sensory activities
- Encourages collaboration, problem solving, exploratory learning and socialization



# Making Accommodations: Visual Supports





# Making Accommodations: Sensory Exploration





# Making Accommodations: Movement Activities



# Making Accommodations: Multiple Formats





# Services Ideas

- Family Tours
- “This Is My Library” Social Stories
- Web content
- Resource Guides
- Special Collections
- Parent Workshops
- App Chats
- “Light It Up Blue” Autism Awareness Month Campaign

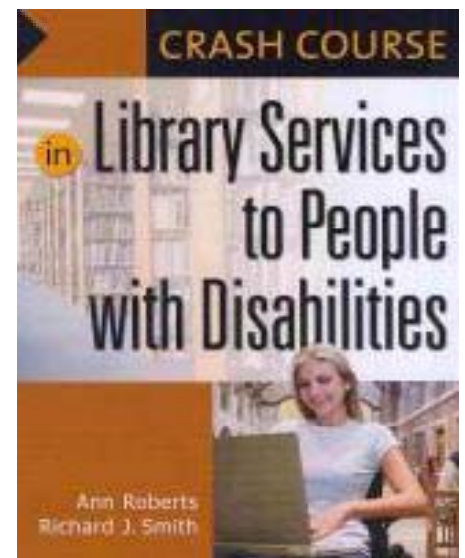
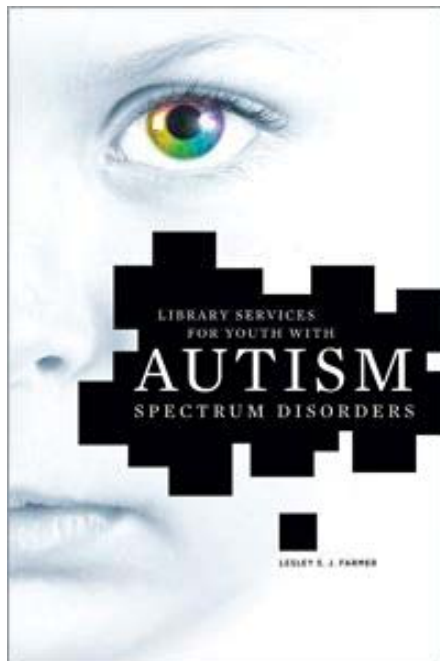
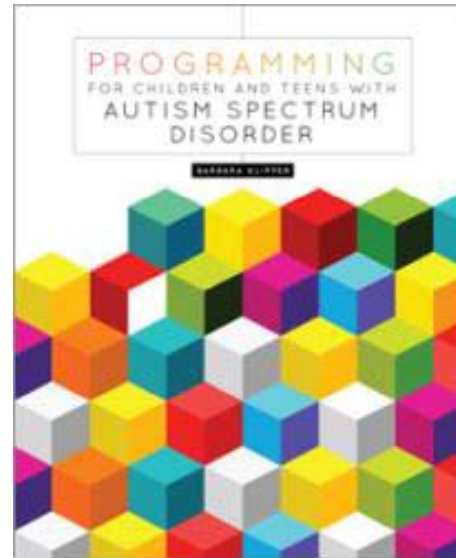
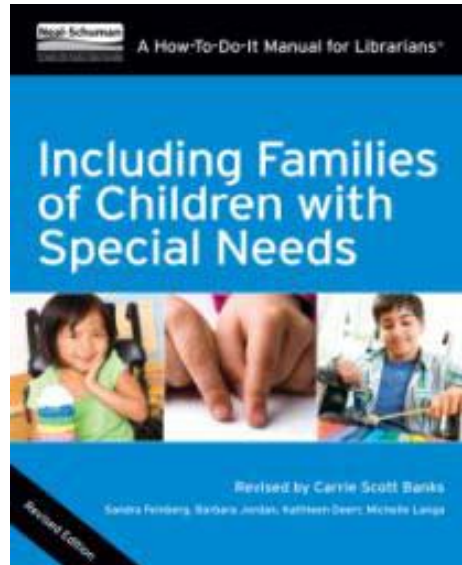
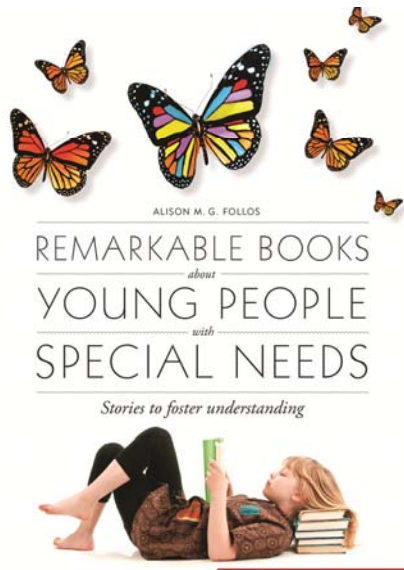


# Let's hear from you!

*How do you define success in library programs and services?*

*Is it different for programs for kids with disabilities?*

# Print Resources



# Online Resources



Lekotek

A division of Anixter Center



Libraries  
and  
Autism



We're Connected.



Choiceworks



Bookshare





# Parting Thoughts



# Thank you!!



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