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
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
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

Targeted

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

ASCLA

ALSC Blog

Libraries and Autism

Talking Books

SNAILS

Special Needs and Inclusive Library Services

ChoiceWorks

Bookshare

Lekotek

We’re Connected.

Signing Savvy

Your Sign Language Resource
Parting Thoughts
Thank you!!

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