

Resources for librarians

- Feinberg, S.—Including families of children with special needs: a how-to-do-it manual for librarians.— ALA, 1999. ISBN 978-1-55570-791-0
- ALSC—Programming for children with special needs <http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2009/06/programming-for-children-with-special-needs-part-one/>
- ALSC—Sensory story time: a brief how-to-guide <http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2012/03/sensory-storytime-a-brief-how-to-guide/>
- Story Time Underground— Ask a story time ninja: special needs programs <https://storytimeunderground.wordpress.com/2014/01/28/ask-a-storytime-ninja-special-needs-programs/>
- POAC autism services <https://www.poac.net/>
- Libraries and autism: we're connected <http://librariesandautism.org/>
- SLJ Program diversity: do libraries serve kids with disabilities? http://www.slj.com/2014/05/diversity/program-diversity-do-libraries-serve-kids-with-disabilities/#_



Services for
children with
special needs
at the Library



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NJLA Youth Forum
October 20, 2016

Why?

Why programming for children with special needs?

Because,

- we had a theory. There is a group of the population in need of special services and we thought the Library would be the right organization to fill them.
- the community was asking. Parents of children with special needs attending regular programs such as therapy dogs and story time, approached us, asking for more specialized activities for their children in the Library.
- after the research results and getting involved with the community, we were able to confirm our theory.
- once we began doing outreach, organizations such as Helping Hands NREIC, Inc and POAC (Parents of Autistic Children), started to come to us looking for our support.

What did we do?

- Research. The Library's different departments (adult, children, administration, branch) worked together to gather information about the special needs population in Clifton. We learned about demographics, local and statewide organizations, other libraries' experience and higher education institutions that might have students available to volunteer.
- Outreach. We contacted some organizations such as public and preschool systems, Department of Health, Head Start and 4H Passaic County.
- We identified areas of greatest need in the local community.
- We offered our first program for children with special needs, a story time in collaboration with Helping Hands NREIC, Inc.

Next steps at Clifton Public Library

- Offer a second story time, this time in Spanish in collaboration with Helping Hands NREIC, Inc.
- Offer a series of LEGO programs for children with autism, in partnership with POAC (Parents of Autistic Children).
- Offer story times for children with special needs up to 5 yrs. old on a regular basis.
- Share resources with the other libraries in Passaic County and beyond.



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