Sensory Story Time and Other Similar Programs for Children with Special Needs

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Why Sensory Story Time?

- Growing number of children being diagnosed with Autism and other developmental disabilities
- Underserved population
- The library is a place for all families
- Opportunity for collaboration with educators and organizations (To Inform and Educate and Support families all of kinds within our community)

SUPPORT AUTISM AWARENESS
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Data & Statistics

Prevalence

- About 1 in 68 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) according to estimates from CDC’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. [Read summary] [Read article]
- ASD is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. [Read summary] [Read article]
- ASD is about 4.5 times more common among boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in 189). [Read article]
- Studies in Asia, Europe, and North America have identified individuals with ASD with an average prevalence of between 1% and 2%. [Data table]
- About 1 in 6 children in the United States had a developmental disability in 2006-2008, ranging from mild disabilities such as speech and language impairments to serious developmental disabilities, such as intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, and autism. [Read summary]

On March 27, 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new data on the prevalence of autism in the United States. This surveillance study identified 1 in 68 children (1 in 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls) as having autism spectrum disorder (ASD). (https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/prevalence)

- Many children/teens have not been diagnosed or are diagnosed later in life (Number most likely is higher)
Story Time

- Welcoming Song
- Story
- Rhymes
- Story
- Song (Felt Board)
- Exercise Movements
- Craft or Activity
- Registration (Option)

- Egg Shakers or Scarfs (For Music)

Always the Same (Predictable)
Before Planning a Sensory Storytime

❖ Search other public libraries offering Sensory Storytime on the web locally
❖ Visit local public libraries offering Sensory Storytime
❖ Attend professional Sensory Storytime Workshops or online ALSC (Association for Libraries Service to Children)
❖ Talk with parents and caregivers about what their child’s needs and wants (programs) in your community (survey)
❖ Join support groups in your community and on social media (ex. Facebook ~Rhode Island (RI) Special Needs Parents, RIPIN (Rhode Island Parent Information Network), The Autism Project, RI-CART)
Planning a Sensory Storytime

- My first print resource “Programming for Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder by Barbara Klipper

Sample Program Plan (Libraries) including:
  ~Social Story Sample
  ~Visual Schedule Sample
  ~Sensory Book suggestions
  ~CD music & songs suggestions
  ~Sensory Activity Suggestions
  ~List materials needed
  ~Fidgety Toys Suggestions
Sensory Storytime Presentations (How To Guide)

- Sensory Storytime: A (brief) How to Guide
  http://alsc.ala.org/blog/2012/03/sensory-storytime-a-brief-how-to-guide/

- Sensory Storytime at The Ferguson Library in Stamford, CT

- Sensory Storytime by Seaside Public Library a presentation at the OLA/WLA Conference (April 2013)
  http://www.wla.org/assets/Conference/Handouts/upload/sensory%20storytimes%20ola%20wla%20conference_1.pdf

- Sensory Storytime - Capstone Portfolio by Katie Wheeler
  (Document Available Online)
Preparing for a Sensory Story Time

- Time and Day of the Week (Summer or School Year)
- Registration Recommended
- Social Story
- Room Setup
- Visual Schedule
- Sensory Books (with Felt Board or Puppet or Big Book, Pop-Up Book)
- Songs (Shakers, Scarves)
- Fidgety Toys (help with anxiety)
- Bubbles
- Sensory Activities
- Promotion
Social Story for Families

What is a Social Story?

Social stories™ were created by Carol Gray in 1991. They are short descriptions of a particular situation, event or activity, which include specific information about what to expect in that situation and why. http://www.autism.org.uk/about/strategies/social-stories-comic-strips.aspx

- Programming for Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder by Barbara Klipper (p. 15)
Social Story for Families

Derry Public Library (Derry, New Hampshire)
http://www.dplkids.org/this-is-my-library/

Glen Ellyn Public Library (Glen Ellyn, IL)
http://gepl.org/2016/03/sensory-storytime-at-the-library/

Website (Make Your Own Social Stories)
http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2013/02/11/12-computer-programs-websites-and-apps-for-making-social-stories/
This is my library: Glen Ellyn Public Library.
Due to a grant, the Chippewa Falls Public Library (above) and other local libraries are able to offer storytimes with sensory input opportunities for kids on the autism spectrum. (September 2012)

Librarian Carrie Rogers-Whitehead (pictured) created Salt Lake County (Utah) Library’s sensory storytimes with special activities to engage kids on the autism spectrum. Photo: Chris Kamlowsky (March 2016)
Visual Schedule (Support)

What is a Visual Support?

A visual support refers to using a picture or other visual item to communicate with a child who has difficulty understanding or using language. Visual supports can be photographs, drawings, objects, written words, or lists. Research has shown that visual supports work well as a way to communicate.

Visual supports are used with children who have autism spectrum disorders (ASD) for two main purposes. They help parents communicate better with their child, and they help their child communicate better with others.

Autism Speaks [https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/resource-library/visual-tools](https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/resource-library/visual-tools)

(Some children use a tablet to communicate)

Let’s the child know what will happen next…. 
Visual Schedule for Families

Sensory Story Time Visual Schedule (Example)

Plano Public Library System (Video Example of Visual Schedule)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSXFtFyz7S0

The Seattle Public Library (Example)

Natural Beach Living (Printables for visual schedule)
http://www.naturalbeachliving.com/daily-visual-schedule/
Visual Schedule from The Journey Librarian Blog
Tips for Reading to Children with Special Needs

- Keep It Visual (Flannel board, Pictures or Objects help to focus)
- Keep it moving (Remove distraction, make engaging and fast pace)
- Short and Simple (Books with few words & paraphrase longer text)
- Keep cool (Child may need break come back to book later)
- Keep it fun (Add a simple craft that focuses on the senses and sensory activities)

Link: [https://www.ksl.com/?sid=22953662](https://www.ksl.com/?sid=22953662)

Tips by: Carrie Rogers-Whitehead
senior librarian at the
Salt Lake County Kearns Library
Selecting Books for Sensory Story Time

- ALSC Blog (Association for Library Service to Children)
  Too Many Choices! Books to Read During Sensory Storytimes
- Programming for Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder by Barbara Klipper
- Sensory Storytime by Seaside Public Library a presentation at the OLA/WLA Conference (April 2013)
  http://www.wla.org/assets/Conference/Handouts/upload/sensory%20storytimes%20ola%20wla%20conference_1.pdf
Sensory Activities

- Learning4kids
  http://www.learning4kids.net/list-of-sensory-play-ideas/

- Sensory Bins (Ideas from Pinterest)
  https://www.pinterest.com/explore/sensory-bins/

- 101 Games and Activities for Children With Autism, Asperger’s and Sensory Processing Disorders by Tara Delaney
Fidgety Toys & Other Sensory Toys

Fidgety Toys  Walking Balancing Beam  Animal Tent  Parachute
My Example of a Sensory Story Time

- Start by explaining visual schedule & what will happen next
- Welcoming Song (with ball)
- Songs (Exercise & Movement)
- One book with felt board (or puppet)
- Rhyme/Fingerplay Songs
- Bubbles
- Play Stations (Sensory Activities)
- Registration

Always the Same (Predictable)

- Dim the lights (optional)
- Keep door closed
- Fidgety Toys (Help Calm Anxiety)
- Children moving during program (It’s okay)
- *Smaller group of children (Flexible with Kids)*
Where to Promote Your Program

- Spread the word in house
- Early Intervention (Meeting Street - Providence, CEDARR Family Center)
- Therapist (Speech, Occupational) Schools Special Education Department, PTOs
- Agencies (AccessPoint, Trudeau, Groden Center, The Autism Project, RIPIN)

Web
- Library Calendar
- Social Media

Press Release
- Local Newspaper
Flyers Example

Sensory Storytime: Storytime for Children with Special Needs

Southwest Regional • 3605 Shannon Rd.

Wednesdays at 3:00pm

June 26th, July 3rd, July 24th, July 31st, August 7th

Join us for Sensory Storytime this summer! Sensory Storytime is for children with special needs and their families, where participants refine their communication and social skills through books, crafts, and hands-on, sometimes messy, activities.

Siblings are welcome.

*Registration Required

For more information call 503-883-2 or visit durhamcountylibrary.org
• Once a Month
• Saturday afternoon
• Sometimes a week day
• 1 hour and a half long
Other Programs for Children with Special Needs

MUSIC PROGRAM WITH MR ROWLAND

YOGA CLASS OM KIDS IN PAWTUCKET

DANCE CLASS WITH iDANCE ACADEMY IN NORTH KINSTON
Contact Me

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