Let’s Get Together!

Book Clubs for Neurodivergent Adults
About Me

Name: Samantha Belmont
Library: Cumberland County Public Library (Fayetteville NC)
Position: Youth Services Librarian (Bordeaux branch)
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Fun Fact- I’m neurodivergent! (You might be, too!)
What is Neurodivergence?

Someone is neurodivergent when their brain functions differently than society deems “typical.”

Neurodivergent folks often have “spiky” profiles.

We may or may not think of ourselves as disabled.
Question Time!

You should refer to me as
A: “a neurodivergent person”
B: “a person who is neurodivergent”
C: Other
Answer Time!

Just Ask!
Vocabulary

*Neurodivergent
*Neurodiverse
*Neurodiversity
*Neurodiversity Movement
*I/DD
*Autism
Resources

- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN)
- NeuroCosmopolitanism
- Neurodivergent Rebel
- Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD)
- Different Brains
- #ActuallyAutistic, #AskingAutistics, #NeurodiverseSquad
Does your organization host a book club for neurodivergent adults?
Benefits

- Promotes community
- Fills gap for folks “aging out”
- Low cost, high reward
- Interactive
- Promotes literacy in underserved population
- It’s fun!
东班顿罗格教区图书馆

大型城市图书馆，拥有多元化的社区，位于路易斯安那州巴吞鲁日。
Next Chapter Book Club

“The mission of Next Chapter Book Club is to provide meaningful opportunities for lifelong-learning, social connections and authentic community inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through weekly or bi-weekly community-based book club meetings that include readers of all skill levels.”

-NextChapterBookClub.org
Obstacles

* Registration
* Scheduling
* Volunteers
Solutions

* Less structure
* Staffed by EBRPL
* Word of Mouth
* Flexibility
Best Practices: Location

* Accessible
* Noise tolerant
* Near a bathroom
* Food available and permitted
Best Practices: Membership

* Fewer than ten members
* All are welcome!
* Self-identify as neurodivergent
* Caregivers present, if needed
Best Practices: Structure

* Welcome and chat
* Announcements
* Round table reading with questions
* Discussion
* Reiterate announcements
* Goodbye
Best Practices: Facilitation

* Two staff members present, if possible
* Echo-reading
* Get club member input on rules
* Include caregivers
* Ask questions
* Keep it fun!
Partnerships

*Organizations working with I/DD
*Parent groups
*Disability groups
*Community centers
*Schools
Book Selection: What to Look For

- Large Print
- Adult protagonist
- Diversity
- Group interest
- Availability
- Accessibility
Book Selection: Suggestions

*NCBC
*Newbery Winners
*Superheroes
*High/Low
*Thorndike
Questions?

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