

# Let's Get Together!

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Book Clubs for  
Neurodivergent Adults

# About Me

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Fun Fact- I'm neurodivergent! (You might be, too!)



# What is Neurodivergence?

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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!

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You should refer to me as

A: “a neurodivergent person”

B: “a person who is neurodivergent”

C: Other

Answer Time!

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Just Ask!

# Vocabulary

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- \*Neurodivergent
- \*Neurodiverse
- \*Neurodiversity
- \*Neurodiversity Movement
- \*I/DD
- \*Autism



# Resources

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- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN)
- NeuroCosmopolitanism
- Neurodivergent Rebel
- Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD)
- Different Brains
- #ActuallyAutistic, #AskingAutistics, #NeurodiverseSquad

# Question Time

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Does your organization host a book club for neurodivergent adults?



# Benefits

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- \*Promotes community
- \*Fills gap for folks “aging out”
- \*Low cost, high reward
- \*Interactive
- \*Promotes literacy in underserved population
- \*It’s fun!

# East Baton Rouge Parish Library

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Large urban  
library with  
diverse population  
in Baton Rouge, LA



# Next Chapter Book Club

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“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

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- \*Registration

- \*Scheduling

- \*Volunteers



# Solutions

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- \*Less structure
- \*Staffed by EBRPL
- \*Word of Mouth
- \*Flexibility



# Best Practices: Location

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- \*Accessible
- \*Noise tolerant
- \*Near a bathroom
- \*Food available and permitted



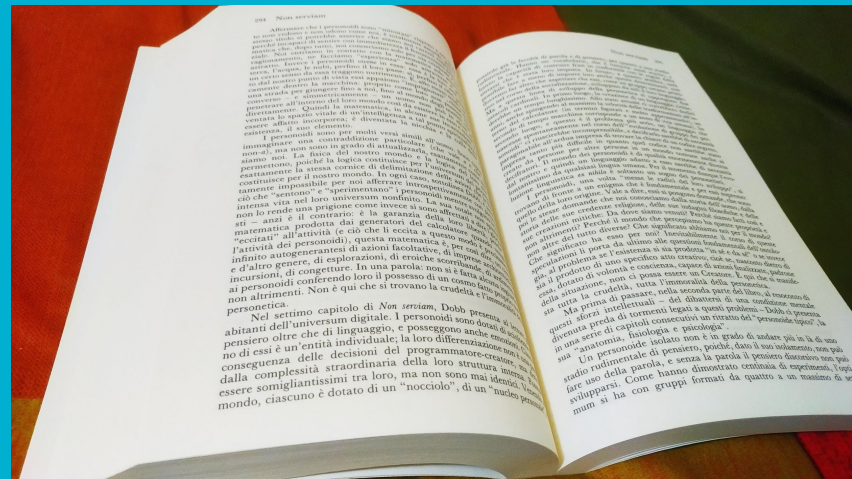
# Best Practices: Membership

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- \*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

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



# Partnerships

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- \*Organizations working with I/DD
- \*Parent groups
- \*Disability groups
- \*Community centers
- \*Schools



# Book Selection: What to Look For

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\*Large Print

\*Adult protagonist

\*Diversity

\*Group interest

\*Availability

\*Accessibility

# Book Selection: Suggestions

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\*NCBC

\*Newbery Winners

\*Superheroes

\*High/Low

\*Thorndike



Questions?

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