An Infopeople Webinar

**Inclusive Library Programs for People with Intellectual Disabilities**

Tuesday, August 20, 2013
Noon to 1:00pm Pacific Time

Presenters:
Noelle Burch, Alison McKee and Kathy Middleton
AGENDA

I. Introduction to Contra Costa County Library Inclusive Plan

II. Definition, Philosophy and Goals

III. Volunteer Programs: How to be Inclusive

IV. “Library Insiders”: Definition and Ways to be Inclusive

V. Inclusive Storytimes

VI. Q & A
I. INTRODUCTION TO CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY INCLUSIVE PLAN
I. INCLUSIVE LIBRARY PLAN

- Accessible Library “Products” and Services
  - Accessibility Committee
- Volunteers (teens and adults)
- “Library Insiders” (adults)
- Inclusive Storytime (children)
- Summer Reading (all ages/abilities)
I. INCLUSIVE LIBRARY PLAN

Accessible Library

- “Products” and Services
- Accessibility Committee

Contra Costa County Library Accessibility Mission Statement:

Bringing People and Ideas Together: Improving access for people with disabilities means improved access for all.
CELEBRATE ACCESSIBILITY!

Rollator Drill Team Performance at the Lafayette Library
**INCLUSIVE LIBRARY PLAN**

- **Volunteers**
  - Jobs for all abilities--adults and teens

- **Library Insiders**
  - Monthly library programs for adults with developmental/intellectual disabilities

- **Inclusive Storytime**
  - Children of all abilities--in welcome environment

- **Summer Reading**
  - Babies through Adult--Inclusive reading programs
II. DEFINITION, PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS
DEFINITION, PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

What is Inclusion? – Importance of Attitude

- Encouraging people of all abilities to feel comfortable and confident using the library
- Presenting library programs that provide a variety of opportunities for learning
What is Inclusion? – Importance of Attitude

- Encouraging reading (or spending time with a book) according to ability

- Using “People-First” Language

- What the public perceives
III. VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS
HOW TO BE INCLUSIVE
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

- How to be inclusive
  - Benefits to volunteers and library
  - Tasks volunteers perform
  - How to recruit: Partners
  - Staff cooperation and sensitivity
  - Group brainstorm: *How to get staff on board*
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

- How to be inclusive
  - Benefits to volunteers and library
Volunteer Programs

- How to be inclusive
  - Benefits to volunteers and library
  - Tasks volunteers perform
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VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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  - How to recruit: Partners
  - Staff cooperation and sensitivity
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

How to get staff on board

GROUP BRAINSTORM EXERCISE
IV. “LIBRARY INSIDERS”
DEFINITION AND WAYS TO BE INCLUSIVE

Thank you for inviting us in. – Eva, Library Insider
“LIBRARY INSIDERS”
DEFINITION & WAYS TO BE INCLUSIVE

- Someone who feels at ease navigating the library.

- An individual who approaches the desk with a question or comment.

- An individual who uses resources and/or attends programs that are available, as a library user.
Dream Collage Activity
Library Insiders, Walnut Creek Library
CREATING AN “INSIDER” EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE

- For some individuals with intellectual disabilities, the library can be an intimidating environment.

- The goal of Library Insiders is to cultivate an “insider” experience for adults with intellectual disabilities.

- Specialized programs give library staff an opportunity to welcome someone who feels like an “outsider” into to an “inside” library experience.
LIBRARY INSIDERS PROGRAM
WALNUT CREEK LIBRARY

Ice Cream making

Dream Collage
HOW TO GET STARTED

- Do you have adults in community-based groups visiting your libraries on a daily basis?
- Introduce yourself to individuals already in your library.
- Call local town/city/county adult community-based organizations (for example, ARC)
TYPES OF PROGRAMS

- Programs that encourage adults with developmental disabilities to feel comfortable and confident using all resources in the public library.
  - Behind the scenes library tour
  - Scavenger hunts (handout)
  - Library technology and computer tutorials
  - Summer Reading (reading record handout)
Types of Programs

- Programs that provide a variety of opportunities for lifelong learning.
  - Exercise, Nutrition, Well-being
  - Fire Safety
  - Scrapbooking, Gaming, Picture Bingo
  - Cooking, Measuring
  - Local Environment (Ranger talks)
  - Zine making (recipes, poetry, drawings, photos or other interests)
  - Yoga
Friends of the Library
Library Foundation
City Parks and Recreation Department
Local Businesses
Police and Fire Department
Reading Therapy Dogs (ARF)
Local Music Performers
FREQUENCY OF PROGRAMS AND SCHEDULING

- When working with local adult organizations it is helpful to determine a set schedule for programs.
- Most programs meet on a monthly or bi-weekly basis.
- Programs are publically promoted.
SUMMER READING RECORDS

Example of literacy activities listed in Adult Summer Reading Record (see handout)

• Visit the library!
• Ask a librarian a question.
• Listen to music or books.
• Read or spend time with a book or magazine.
• Watch a movie.
• Write or draw a picture about your summer.
EXAMPLE OF ACCESSIBLE SUMMER READING RECORD: LIBRARY INSIDERS

Follow the directions for each picture. Once you have completed all of the activities, bring this reading program to the Insiders Meeting in September for a special celebration!

Visit the Library! Color in the box for one visit...

Ask a Librarian a Question. Color in the box for asking one question.

Listen to Music or Books. For every 10 minutes, color in a box.

Read or have someone read you a book or magazine.

Watch a Movie. Color in the box for watching one movie.
HOW CAN YOU MAKE SUMMER READING MORE ACCESSIBLE?

- **2012** Adult Summer Reading Record Instructions
  Read a book and write a short review to enter in the Library’s prize drawing. Ages 18 and older.

- **2013** Adult Summer Reading Record Instructions
  Read a book and write a short review to enter in the Library’s prize drawing. Ages 18 and older. **For other ways to participate, visit ccclib.org/summer.** Ages 18 and older.
**Communication**

- Explain the importance of including everyone.
- Share program feedback.
- Foster introductions and relationships with staff and Insiders.
- Get everyone involved.
Participants report that they use the library more, feel comfortable asking questions of library staff, and are now attending a variety of library programs.

Library Insiders gain independent public library skills and are equipped to navigate most public library resources/services.

Staff appreciate the kindness and positive interactions received from Library Insiders.
V. INCLUSIVE STORYTIMES
PARTNERS

A good place to start: Your Community!
PARTNERS

- Schools
  - Special Day Classes
    - Observe classes
    - Host a storytime
  - Special Education Departments

- Parenting Groups
  - Parent to Parent Networks
  - School affiliated parenting groups
- Local Organizations Serving Children with Disabilities (211.org)
- Early Intervention Programs (WeCareChildren.org, Milestonesforautism.net)
- Any organization that reaches out to families, with services for children with disabilities
WHAT IS INCLUSIVE STORYTIME?

A time to learn and grow for children of all abilities

- Inclusive storytimes are for **all** children, including children with disabilities.

- Inclusive storytime does **not** mean a storytime that is **only** for children with disabilities.
WHAT MAKES STORYTIME INCLUSIVE?

- Provide adaptations that enable all children, including those with disabilities, to participate.
- Modify books to make them easier to use and to comprehend.
- Add visuals, such as a picture schedule, along with “rules”/expectations.
- Slow down the pace.
- Provide fidget toys.
GROUP BRAINSTORM EXERCISE

HOW CAN YOU MAKE STORYTIMES INCLUSIVE?
Adapted, or modified books expand learning opportunities for all children, but particularly for children with vision, hearing and learning disabilities.

For example:

- Laminate loose book pages
- Add page turners
- Create Velcro icons/images in order to clarify meaning
Sensory Art for Inclusive Storytime Kit #2 – Paint & Chalk
INCLUSIVE STORYTIME
FIDGET TOYS, PICTOGRAMS, ECHO-PHONE
STAFF COOPERATION AND TRAINING

- Biggest challenge – staff unfamiliar with learning differences and may fear failure.
  - Provide information on most common youth disabilities in your community.
  - Observe Special Day Class or Special Education class.
  - Present storytime to Special Day Class, utilize teacher’s support.
  - Contact school district or literacy organization for workshop information.
VI. Questions about Inclusive Library Programs?

I. Inclusive Plan

II. Accessibility Goals

III. Volunteers

IV. Library Insiders

V. Inclusive Storytimes
Thank You

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