

Inclusive Library Programs for People with Intellectual Disabilities


An Infopeople Webinar

Inclusive Library Programs for People with Intellectual Disabilities

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

Infopeople *helping libraries think differently*

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

Kathy Middleton

I. INTRODUCTION TO CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY INCLUSIVE PLAN

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Inclusive Library Programs for People with Intellectual Disabilities

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

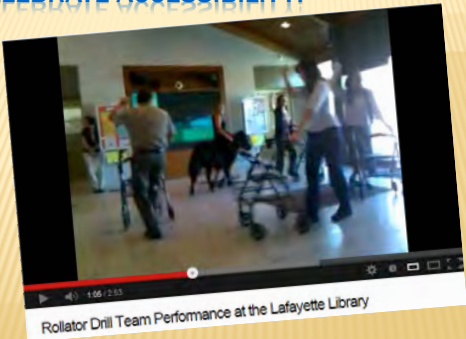


Accessible Library

- ✘ “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!



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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

Kathy Middleton

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

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DEFINITION, PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

- ✦ 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

Alison McKee

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*

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VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

- ✦ **How to be inclusive**
 - ✦ Benefits to volunteers and library
 - ✦ Tasks volunteers perform
 - ✦ How to recruit: Partners
 - ✦ Staff cooperation and sensitivity

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

How to get staff on board

GROUP BRAINSTORM EXERCISE

Noelle Burch

IV. "LIBRARY INSIDERS"
DEFINITION AND WAYS TO BE INCLUSIVE

Thank you for inviting us in. – Eva, Library Insider

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“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.

insiders



Dream Collage Activity
Library Insiders, Walnut Creek Library

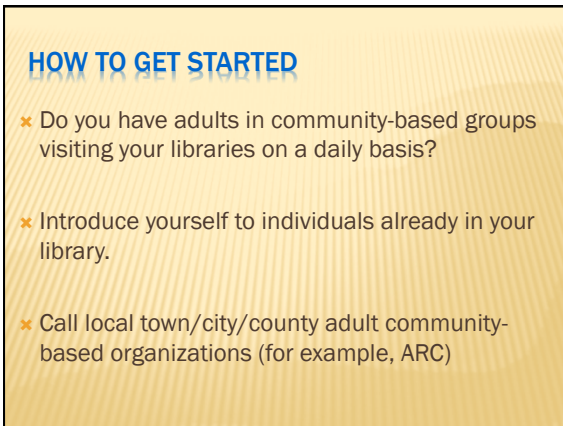
CREATING AN “INSIDER” EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE

- ✦ 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.

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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

PARTNERS: AGENCIES & PRESENTERS

- ✦ 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.

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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



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.

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STAFF COOPERATION

- ✦ Communication
 - + Explain the importance of including everyone.
 - + Share program feedback.
 - + Foster introductions and relationships with staff and Insiders.
 - + Get everyone involved.

IMPACT


- ✦ 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.

Content provided by Gina Worsham
Presented by Alison McKee

V. INCLUSIVE STORYTIMES

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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

PARTNERS

- ✦ **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**

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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.

INCLUSIVE STORYTIMES

GROUP BRAINSTORM EXERCISE

HOW CAN YOU MAKE STORYTIMES INCLUSIVE?




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ADAPTATIONS

- ✦ 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

ADAPTED BOOK



The image shows an adapted book with a central illustration of a brown horse. Above the horse are two small icons: a horse and a red 'X'. To the right of the horse is a small icon of a cat. Below the horse is a green landscape with a red flag. The book is bound with metal rings.

INCLUSIVE STORYTIME KITS TRAVEL



The image shows a clear plastic storage bin filled with various sensory art materials. A white label on top reads: "Sensory Art for Inclusive Storytime Kit #2 - Paint & Chalk". The bin contains colorful paint containers and small objects.

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INCLUSIVE STORYTIME FIDGET TOYS, PICTOGRAMS, ECHO-PHONE



STAFF COOPERATION AND TRAINING

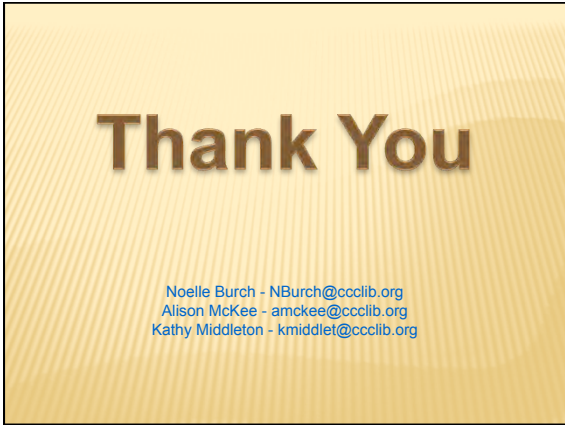
- × **Biggest challenge – staff unfamiliar with learning differences and may fear failure.**
 - + Provide information on most common youth disabilities in your community.
 - + Observe Special Day Class or Special Education class.
 - + Present storytime to Special Day Class, utilize teacher's support.
 - + Contact school district or literacy organization for workshop information.

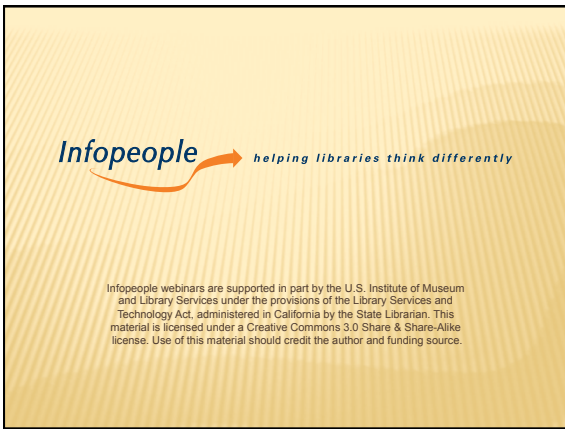
VI. Questions about Inclusive Library Programs?



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