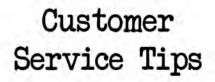
Libraries and Autism





"If you know one person with autism you know one person with autism"



Communication Tips

Address the individual by name first Speak directly, simply, slowly and at a normal volume Try to make eye contact Avoid broad open-ended questions Provide a non-verbal communication board



Behaviors to ignore - "If it's not bothering somebody, let it go"

Rocking Quiet Humming Pacing Wiggling

Behaviors You Should Not Ignore

Destructive Activities Violent Tantrums Loud or inappropriate interaction with other patrons Inappropriate Sexual Behavior

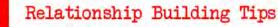


Behavior Tips

Offer to help the caregiver and be empathetic Sit next to the person with autism Redirect attention Ask common social questions Offer to relocate other patrons

Emergency Tips

Contact security Call 911 Do not touch the individual Avoid standing too close "The library can be a wonderful place for people with autism... with its cozy nooks and crannies... and books, and because it's not necessarily demanding anything socially, it's kind of perfect for somebody with autism"



Don't be condescending Be aware of your own attitude and avoid being judgemental Don't consider the caregiver as an intermediary Be an amassador Give a tour of your library Know where your autism materials are located Offer "This Is My Library" book

