

**The Kids on the Block
New Jersey Inc.**



The Kids on the Block New Jersey, Inc.

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Disability Awareness

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Kids on the Block program on Disability Awareness was developed in order to promote sensitivity and acceptance of children with disabilities. This curriculum is an educational tool designed to:

- ◆ familiarize children with disabilities
- ◆ nurture children's curiosity by encouraging them to talk with other children who may be different from them
- ◆ teach children that people with disabilities are more like them than different
- ◆ educate children that, like anyone else, people with disabilities will ask for help if it is needed
- ◆ teach children that although another child may be disabled, he or she does the same things, only sometimes in a different way

SCRIPT SUMMARIES

Secret Code (Visual Impairment)

When Renaldo tells time using his braille watch, Brenda is amazed. This leads her to ask many questions about Renaldo's abilities. Renaldo describes braille and explains how his learning to read with his fingers was no more different than it was for Brenda to learn how to read with her eyes.

At The Vets (Down Syndrome)

When Brenda arrives at the Valley Animal Hospital to pick up her dog, she meets Ellen Jane, the veterinarian's assistant. When Ellen Jane tells Brenda that she has Down Syndrome and that for her, it means she learns slowly, Brenda is surprised that Ellen Jane can do so many things. Brenda then decides that since she doesn't learn slowly, she could do a better job than Ellen Jane. When Brenda tries to do Ellen Jane's job she gains new respect for Ellen Jane's skills.

New Friends (Cerebral Palsy)

When Melody James meets Mark Riley for the first time she is curious about his wheelchair and his speech difference. Mark encourages Melody's questions and explains about his condition, cerebral palsy. As Melody gains confidence, she asks what she believes to be the most difficult question of all.

Each script is followed by a question and answer session where the children are encouraged to ask the puppet characters questions.