

## How Librarians can help Parents of Children with disAbilities

1. **Introduce yourself.** (i.e. If you see a child with a disAbility, go over to parent and child to break the ice.) Some children have hidden disAbilities; you will need to keep this in mind.
2. **Ask Questions.** Does your child have any needs we should know about or do they need any assistance?
3. Remember to **talk directly to the person with a disAbility** not over or around them.
4. **At every** registration ask, "Does your child have any special needs?" or "Does your child need any accommodations?"
5. **Do not** be afraid to ask for help! Does the parent have someone in mind that can provide additional support during a program?
6. **Do not** assume you know everything about the child because you know the disability. **Child first, disability second.**
7. Set up volunteer opportunities that focus on **student's strengths.**
8. **Make suggestions** - "Maybe we can do this instead of this."

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It is hard for parents to bring their child with a disAbility into the library for the first time. Make it as enjoyable and friendly as you can.

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