

A young child with light brown hair, wearing a purple dress, is running barefoot on a dark, pebbly beach. The child is captured in motion, with their arms and legs extended. The background shows the ocean with gentle waves under a soft, overcast sky.

# **Access and inclusion to public libraries for children with special needs and their families.**

Jo Kaeding

PhD Candidate, University of South Australia

Children's Librarian, Adelaide Hills Council

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Award

# Every child deserves to find themselves lost in a book

## Hannah's story



**In 2012 approximately 13% of children under 14 in Australia had a disability.**

**(ABS, 2013)**



**1 in 5 students in Australia have a disability or learning difficulty.**

**(The Australian Newspaper, 12/3/16)**

**The most common disability  
for children in Australia is  
largely invisible.**

**What is it?**

**Why should libraries be accessible for a minority group?**

**It is the LAW and accessibility for all is a core principle of the public library.**

‘The DDA makes it against the law to discriminate against someone if they have a disability in the following areas of life: ... *Access to premises* used by the public. For example, using libraries...’

## Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992.

# UNICEF

People with disabilities have the same right as others to **participate** in and **enjoy** the arts, sports, games, films and other fun activities. So, theatres, museums, playgrounds and libraries should be accessible by everyone, including children with disabilities.

*It's about Ability: An Explanation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability* UNICEF (2008)



# Australian Library and Information Association

Each member of the Australian community has an equal right to public library and information services regardless of age, race, gender, religion, nationality, language, disability, geographic location, social status, economic status and educational attainment.

*Statement on public library services (2009)*



# 2014 Research Trip to United States and Canada

- Visited 22 public libraries (including two cultural institutions) that deliver programs for children with special needs in:
  - San Francisco
  - Vancouver
  - Toronto
  - New York
  - the greater Chicago area
- 18 participants took part in a one-to-one interview and an online survey.

# Benefits

83% Greatest benefit for the family: Being connected to their community and the social interaction

77% Greatest benefit for the library – it becomes more inclusive for all.

83% Greatest benefit for the community – acceptance of diversity in their community.

# What do you see as the main barriers to public library access for children with special needs and their families?

55% Library staff attitudes and sensitivities

50% Programs do not cater for children with special needs

44% Library's physical environment (noise, universal design)

# What do you think prevents libraries from addressing barriers to access?

77% Lack of knowledge on how to address the barriers.

66% Staffing resources.

61% Financial resources.

# What has your library done to improve access for children with special needs and their families?

94% Implemented programs for children with special needs.

94% Developed partnerships with external organisations.

88% Staff training.

# **What one thing do you think would have the greatest impact on increasing access if it could be implemented?**

38% Disability awareness training for all staff

27% Outreach programs

11% Priority for management

# **Six key elements**

Research found there were six common elements that libraries focussed on when addressing issues of accessibility. The elements were used to develop:

**an inclusive library model.**

The foundation of this model is a supportive management.



# Inclusive Libraries Model



# Management

- A strongly supportive management is the foundation of the model.
- Develop a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan



# Training

- Disability awareness training for all staff.
- Universal design for learning.
- Multiple intelligences.
- Universal design.



**Nature Smart**  
(Naturalist)



**People Smart**  
(Interpersonal)



**Number Smart**  
(Logical/Mathematical)



**Picture Smart**  
(Spatial/Visual)



**Self Smart**  
(Intrapersonal)



**Body Smart**  
(Bodily-Kinesthetic)



**Music Smart**  
(Musical)



**Word Smart**  
(Linguistic)

# Partnerships

- Develop relationships with external individuals or organisations that work with children with special needs and their families.



twitter: @KaedingJo

blog: <http://librarylionsroar.weebly.com>



# Programs

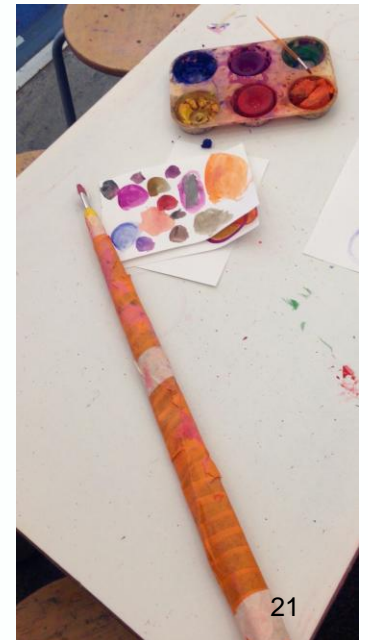
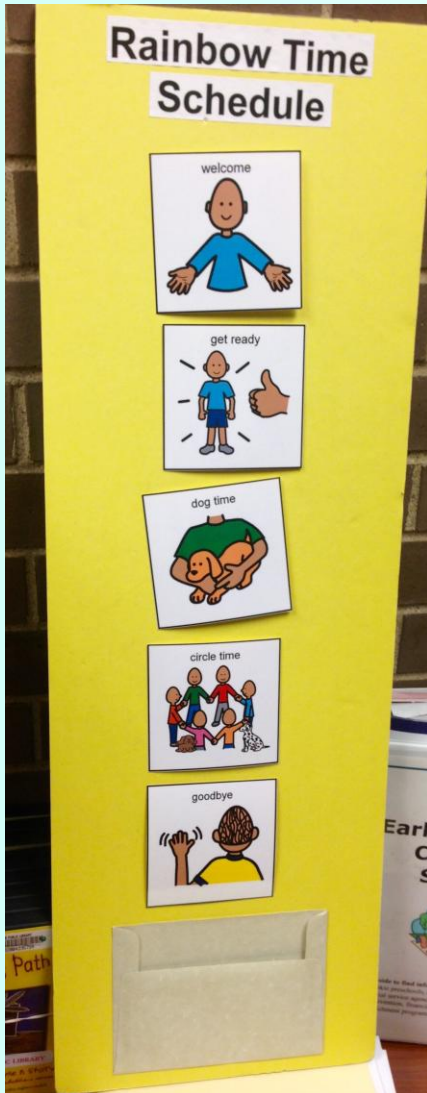


- It is not what you deliver but **how** you deliver it. (universal design for learning and multiple intelligences)



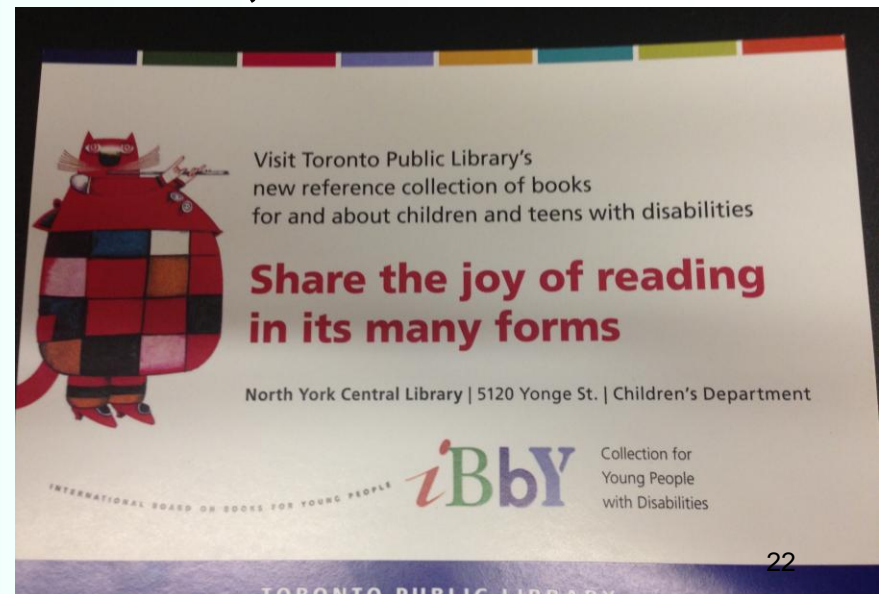
# Programs

- Make as many programs as possible inclusive.
- Consider targeted library programs as a bridge to inclusive programs.



# Collections

- Develop a children's collection that is inclusive of children with disabilities.
- Develop audio and book kit collections of popular titles for all ages.
- Develop HiLo (high interest, low difficulty) collections without the label easy reads.





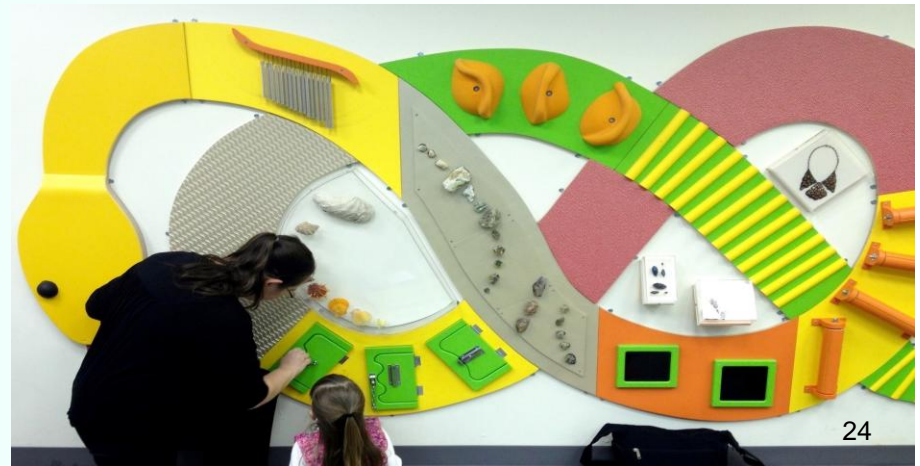
# Collections



- Provide books with tactile pictures and books with sign language.
- Develop parenting collections on the topic of children with disabilities and their families.

# Physical Environment (space and equipment)

- Undertake a library access audit, benchmarking against:
  - the principles of universal design for access in libraries
  - legislated building access codes.



# Marketing

- Marketing is how public libraries put out the 'welcome mat' for children with special needs and their families.

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DISCOVER NEW WORLDS  
WITH OUR  
DISCOVERY BACKPACKS!

Stop by the Children's Department the next time you're in the library and check out one of these exciting and educational backpacks!

Themes to choose from:

- Colors and Shapes
- Dinosaurs
- Farm
- Fire Engines
- Human Body
- Insects and Spiders
- New Sibling
- Numeration
- Time
- Transportation



## MY FUN PLACE

Programs for  
Children with  
Special Needs



September / October 2015



**FARMINGDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
118 Merritts Road  
Farmingdale, NY 11735  
516-249-9090  
[www.farmingdalelibrary.org](http://www.farmingdalelibrary.org)

### PREFERENCE GIVEN TO UFSD #22 RESIDENTS FOR ALL PROGRAMS.

#### VIDEO GAME CLUB

Thursdays, September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12 at 7:30pm  
Gr. 6-up, special needs  
Online Registration: September 1  
Join us for a night of video game fun!

#### TRIPLE P: CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Mondays, October 5, 19 at 7:00pm  
All Ages, Special Needs  
Online Registration: September 21  
Lisa Joy Walters will be here for our first peer pal program, complete with games and activities to encourage social interaction.

#### TRIPLE P: ART WITH KARYN

Mondays, October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23 at 7:00pm  
All Ages, Special Needs  
Online Registration: October 13  
Let your creative juices flow with art therapist Karyn Tanacan.



### JOIN US FOR THESE OTHER GREAT PROGRAMS!

#### JOHNNY APPLESEED WALK-IN CRAFT

Wednesday, September 9 from 10:00am - 8:30pm  
All Ages and an adult  
Stop by the Children's Department and make a special craft using dot markers.

#### HALLOWEEN TOTE BAG CRAFT

Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00pm  
All Ages and an adult  
Online Registration: September 29  
Come make a trick-or-treat bag to hold all your yummy candy in!

#### PUMPKIN DECORATING

Saturday, October 17 from 10:00am - 4:00pm  
All Ages and an adult  
First Come, First Served  
Bring a pumpkin to the library and we'll supply the decorating materials.

#### MONSTERS EVERYWHERE

Tuesday, October 20 at 4:30pm  
All Ages and an adult  
Online Registration: October 6  
We're going to be making a super cute Halloween craft in this program.

#### STORYBOOK TRICK-OR-TREAT

Saturday, October 24 from 10:00am - 11:30am  
First Come, First Served  
Join us for fun and games, and of course, treats! Please bring a bag for your treats and don't forget your camera! Proof of residency in UFSD #22 required.

### SUNDAYS ARE FAMILY FUN DAYS!

#### FAMILY LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT

Sunday, September 20 at 3:00pm  
All Ages and an adult  
First Come, First Served  
Show off your library knowledge and join us for our first ever Family Library Scavenger Hunt. Siblings welcome.

#### HALLOWEEN FAMILY CRAFT

Sunday, October 18 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
All Ages and an adult  
First Come, First Served  
Come on down to the library and make some spooky crafts to decorate your home for Halloween!



TumbleBook Library contains online storybooks for children to listen and read-along to. It also offers a large selection of games and puzzles.

To access TumbleBook Library, visit our website at [www.farmingdalelibrary.org](http://www.farmingdalelibrary.org).

#### STORYTIME TO GO BAGS!

Stop by the Children's Department and check out one of our Storytime to Go bags. Each bag contains books on a particular theme, songs and fingerplays you can do with your child, a coloring sheet, and directions to a simple craft. Be sure to check one out today!

- Find out who your audience are and reach out.
- Promote that you are an inclusive library.

# Preliminary findings from research with public libraries Australia and New Zealand

<50% Aware of laws

20% Barrier of library staff attitudes  
and sensitivities

46% Developed partnerships to  
promote and develop access  
[compared to 94%]

Lack of marketing and understanding of need  
for it.



# **Take away question**

What can your library  
do for Hannah and her  
family?

# Find out more

- ALIA 2016 conference paper.
- Scholarship Report see Catherine Helen Spence Scholarship website
- Blog: Library Lions Roar  
<http://librarylionsroar.weebly.com>
- joanne.kaeding@mymail.unisa.edu.au