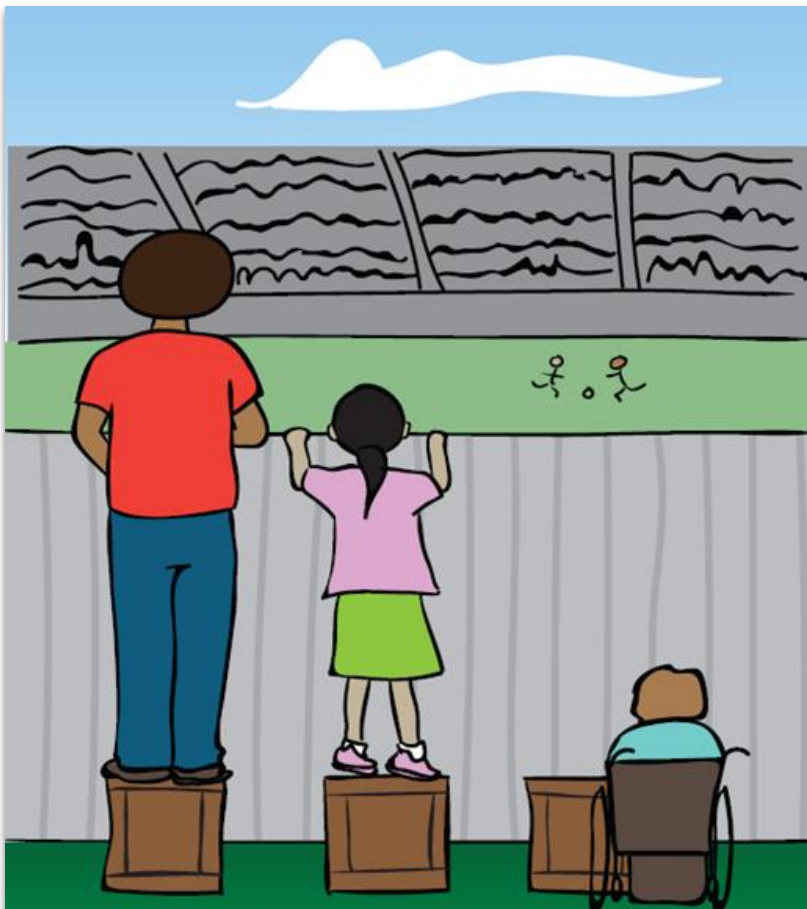


Opportunity with Olmstead: Working Towards Inclusion of People with Disabilities at Dakota County Library

Renee Grassi, Dakota County (MN) Library





EQUALITY

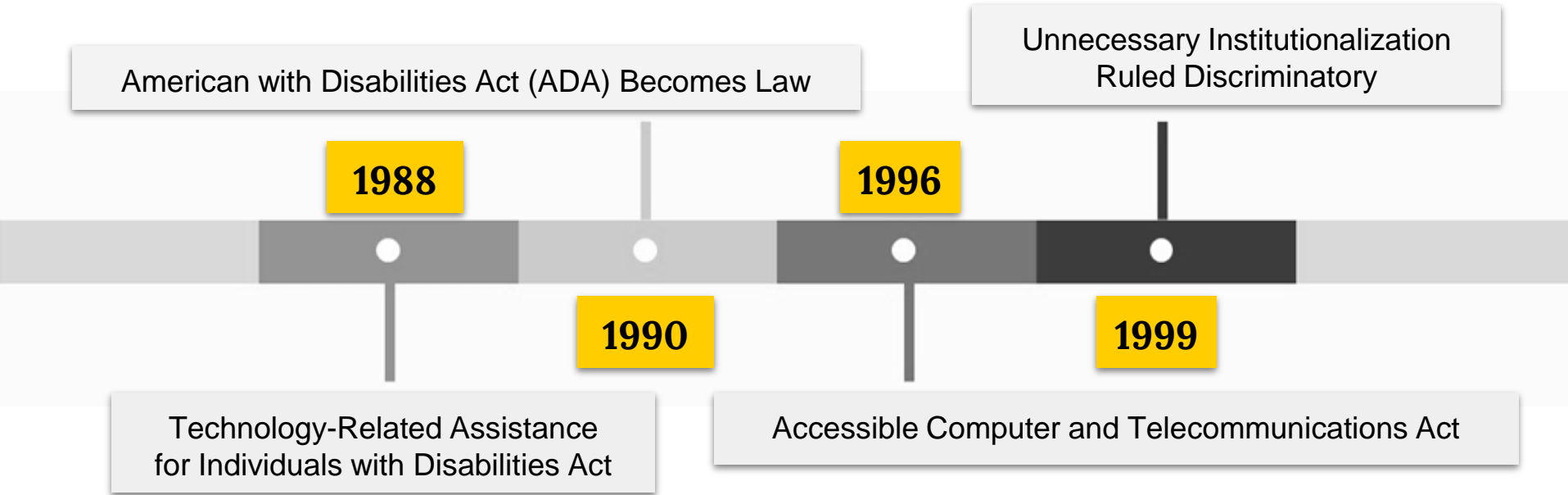


EQUITY

**BECAUSE
ACCESS
EQUALS
OPPORTUNITY.**

**LIBRARIES
TRANSFORM[®]**

History of ADA



Olmstead v. L.C.

1999 US Supreme Court ruling

- Eliminated unnecessary segregation
- Mandated services be in most integrated setting appropriate to needs
- Mandated unjustified institutional isolation was a form of unlawful discrimination

Learn more:

<https://www.ada.gov/olmstead>



Lois Curtis, Elaine Wilson, and Sue Jamieson
(1999)



<https://www.olmsteadrights.org>

Minnesota's Olmstead Plan

Began development in 2011; adopted in 2015

Activities ensuring people with disabilities are living, learning, working, and enjoying in the most integrated setting possible

Opportunity to:

- Live close to their family and friends
- Live more independently
- Engage in productive employment
- Participate in community life



Implementation of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan

11 key topic areas including

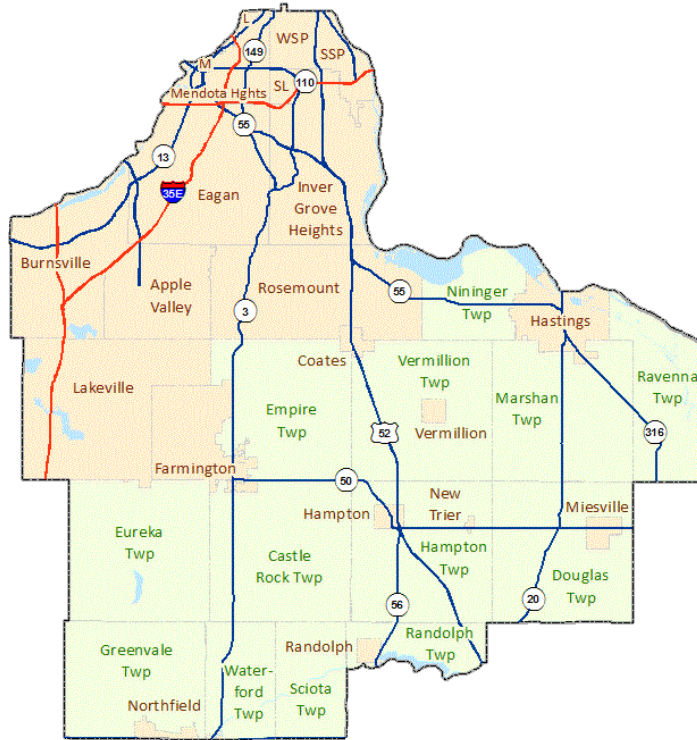
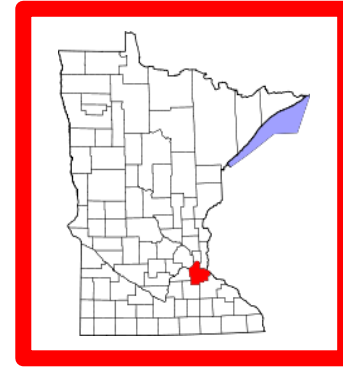
- Employment
- Transportation
- Positive Supports
- Transition Services
- Person Centered Planning
- Healthcare and Healthy Living
- Community Engagement
- Lifelong Learning and Education



YOUR VOICES. YOUR CHOICES. YOUR OLMSTEAD.



Dakota County Library



Residential Population: 421, 751

$\frac{1}{3}$ urban $\frac{1}{3}$ suburban $\frac{1}{3}$ rural

Nine library branches

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries>

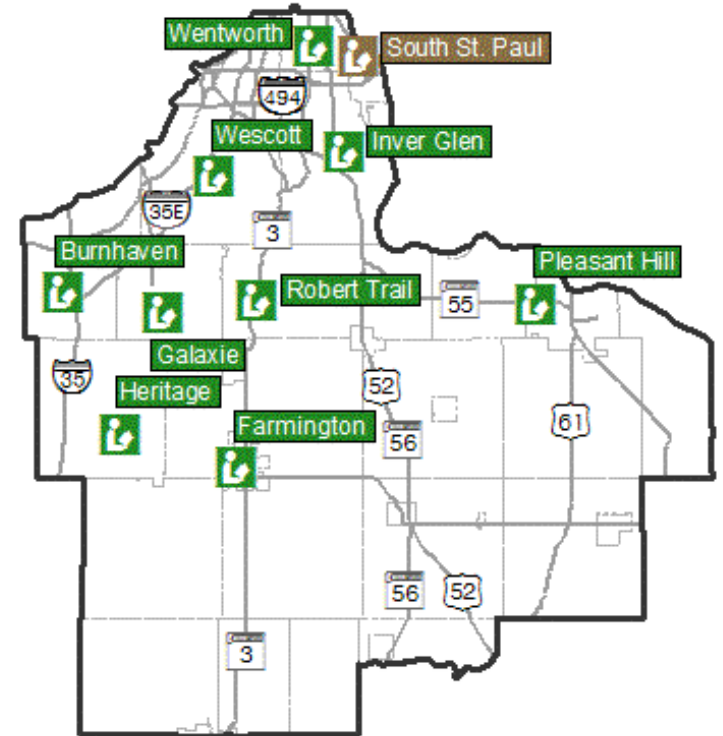
Dakota County is the third-most populous county in Minnesota located south of St. Paul

Dakota County Autism Grant



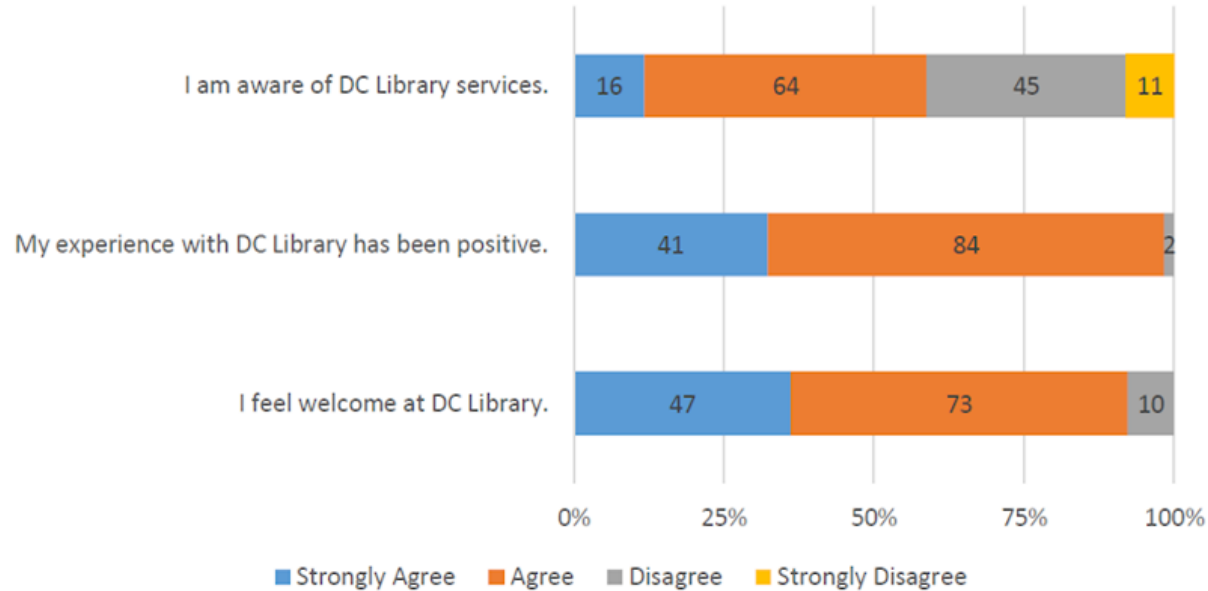
Dakota County Autism Survey - What We Learned

- #1 recommendation: staff training
- 97% *agreement*: libraries should integrate people with ASD into existing programs
- 89% *agreement*: libraries should offer special programming to people with ASD
- 57% *agreement*: use of the Dakota County Library website as primary method to identify available library services
- 34% *disagreement*: “I am aware of Dakota County Library services.”



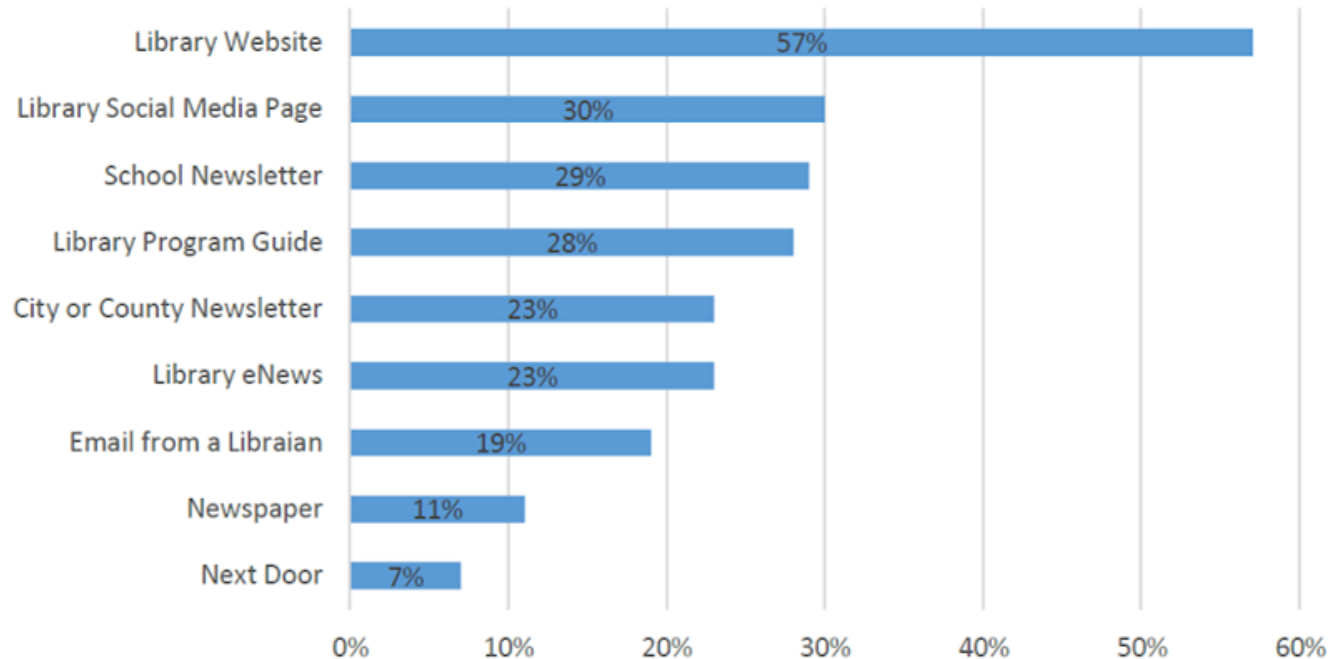
Dakota County Autism Survey - What We Learned

Figure 1. Experiences with Dakota County Library
N = 164



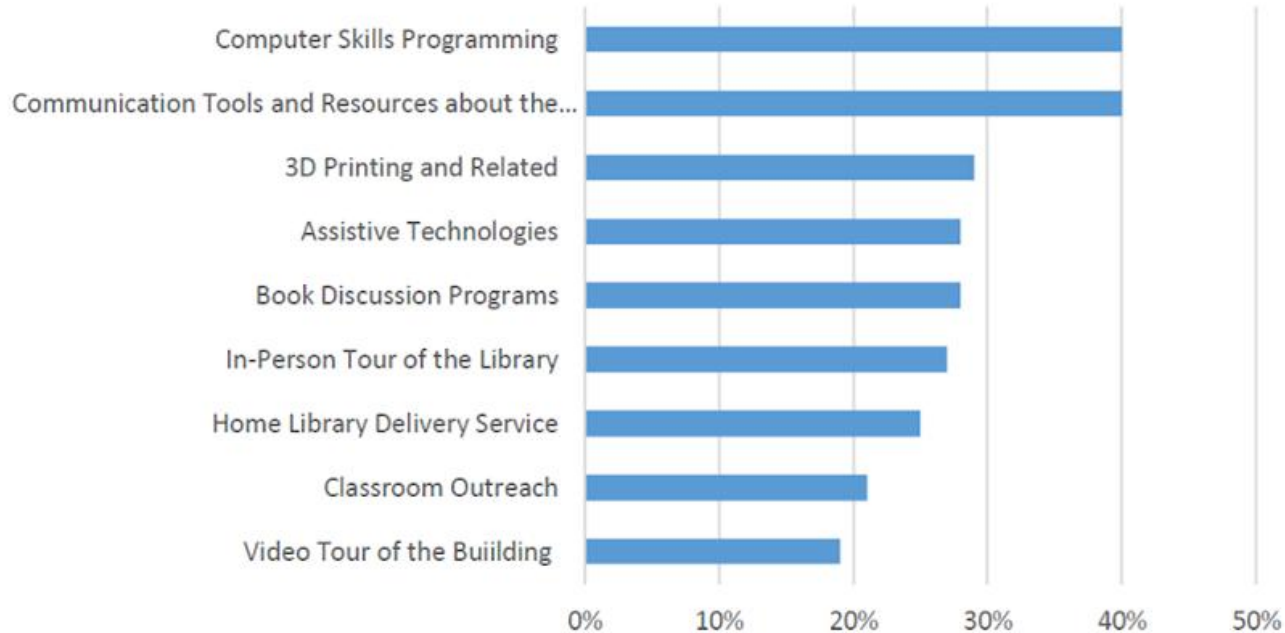
Dakota County Autism Survey - What We Learned

Figure 4. Percent of People Finding Communication Methods for Library Services Helpful (N = 146)



Dakota County Autism Survey - What We Learned

Figure 5. Percent of People Indicating Given Service Would Be Useful (N = 146)



Inclusive Programs: AuSM Book Club

FREE monthly book club for participants of all abilities
(individuals with autism and/or other disabilities and neurotypical
individuals ages 14+)

All reading levels welcome; multiple formats (e.g., print books;
audiobooks; electronic books; graphic novels, etc.) supported

Participants vote on monthly themes

- Past themes: classic authors; mystery; historical;
action/adventure; sci-fi/fantasy; sports

Outcomes targeted

- Life skills
- Socialization and connection
- Communication skills
- Reading comprehension and literacy



AuSM Book Club at Dakota County Library



AuSM is pleased to partner with Dakota County Library to offer a monthly AuSM Book Club for individuals with autism, other disabilities, and neurotypical individuals ages 14+. Share the joy of reading with others, enjoy socializing,

and practice life skills in a public library. All reading levels are welcome and supported.



This book club is offered free of charge and made possible by the Minnesota Department of Human Services Disability Services Innovation Grant.

2018-2019 AuSM Book Club Dates

All meetings are from 6-7 p.m.

Feb. 12, 2019 SESSION CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER

March 7, 2019

April 4, 2019

May 2, 2019

May 30, 2019

Sept. 12, 2019

Oct. 10, 2019

Nov. 14, 2019

Dec. 5, 2019

Location

Wescott Library in the Dakota Room

1340 Wescott Rd.

Eagan, MN 55123-1029

The Wescott Library is on the MVTA (Minnesota Valley Transit Authority) bus line along the 446 Bus Route with a stop only steps away from the library building.

Inclusive Programs: Makerspace Visits



Outreach program in partnership with MOFAS (Minnesota Organization of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome)

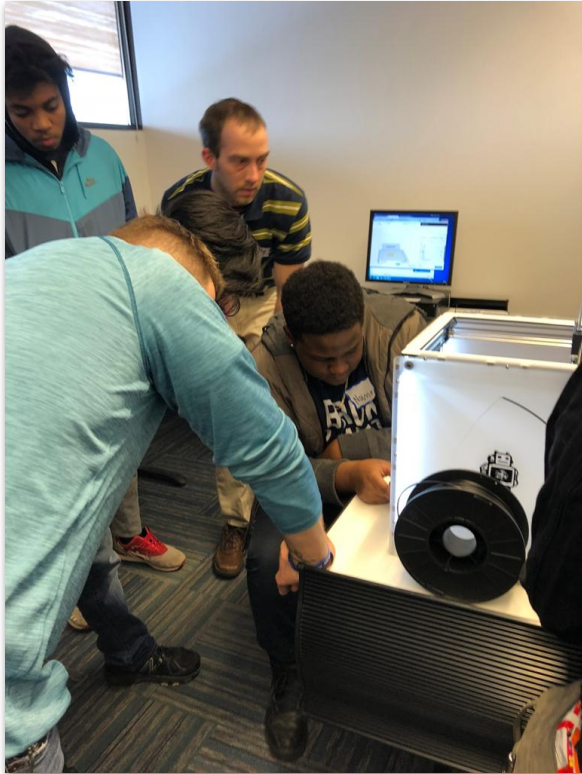
Teens ages 12-17 with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome & co-occurring disabilities

Program Goals

- Introduce Library and makerspace technologies
- Teach 3-D printing and stop-motion animation
- Build rapport with staff
- Parent and caregiver respite



Inclusive Programs: Makerspace Visits





MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**DISABILITY SERVICES
INNOVATIONS GRANT**



Program Kits

Consulting Services & Assessment

Accessibility Tools

Calming Spaces

mn
GRANT

Staff Training

Programs

Marketing

Calming Spaces

Program Kits

Consulting Services & Assessment

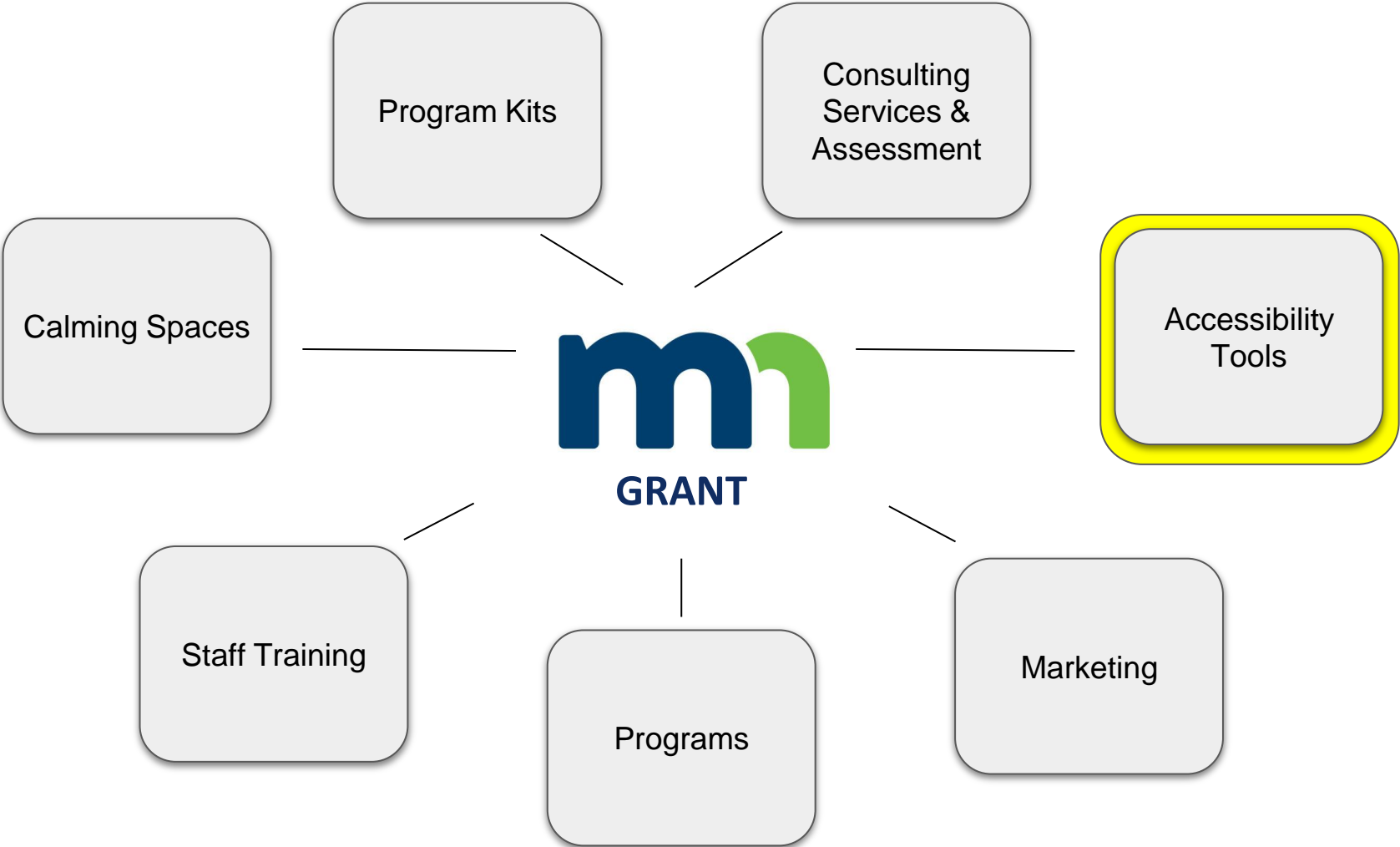
Accessibility Tools



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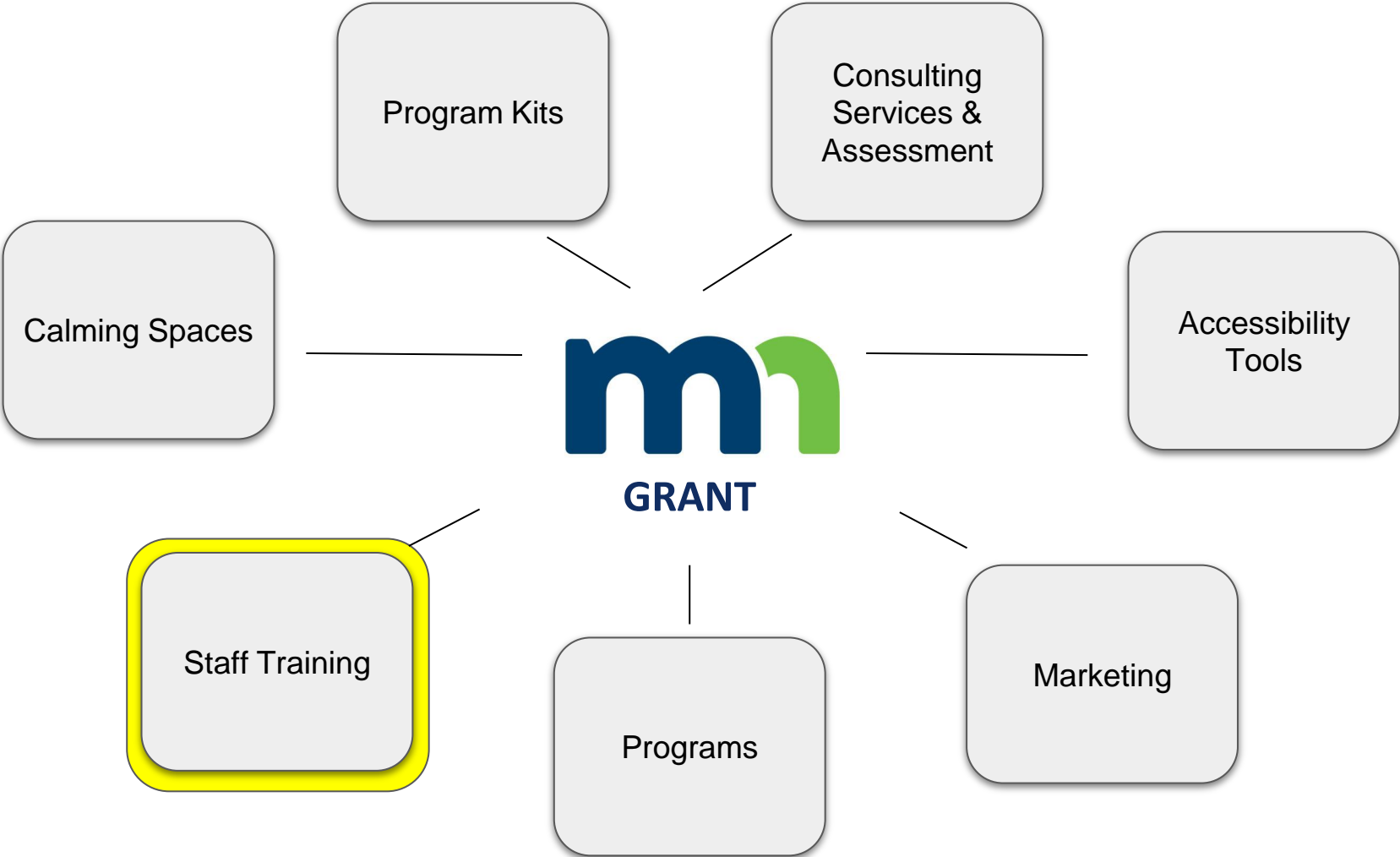
Accessibility Tools

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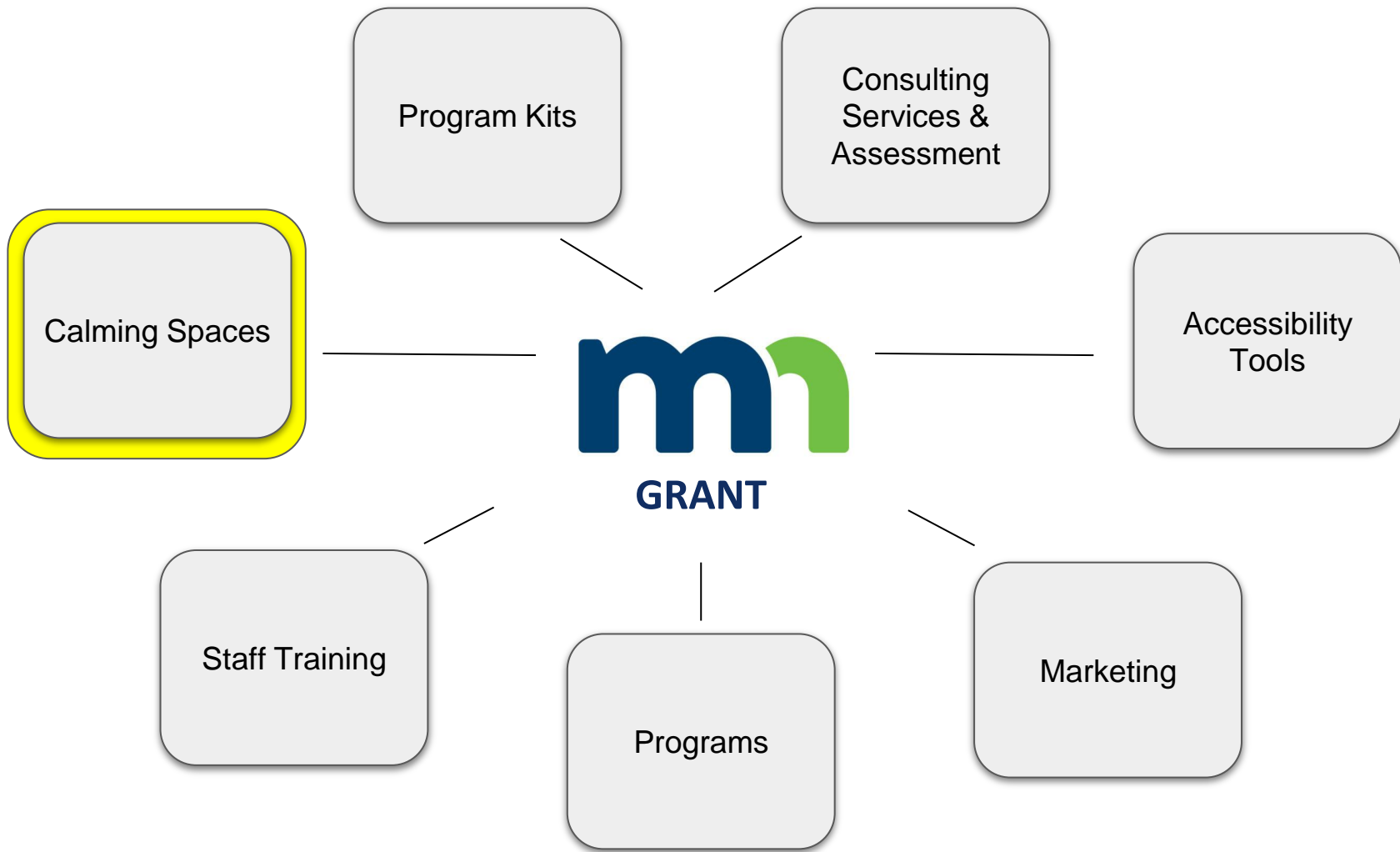
Accessibility Tools

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Accessibility
Tools



Staff Training

Programs

Marketing

Accessibility Project Team



Supports innovation in accessibility and inclusion for customers with disabilities at Dakota County Library

Identifies, prioritizes, evaluates and implements accessibility projects and initiatives county-wide

Involves community members to inform priorities and build awareness about library services

Subgroups

- Customer Experience
- Community Engagement and Awareness

Inclusive Services: Accessibility Kits



Tools, adapted school supplies, and small equipment to support in-library use

Available first come, first served basis at the service desk

Does not require library card or ID to use in the library

For all ages

Inclusive Services: Accessibility Kits



Auditory Supports

Communication Supports



Interoceptive Supports



Proprioceptive Supports

Tactile Supports

Visual Supports



Inclusive Services: Accessibility Kits



DAKOTA
COUNTY
LIBRARY

Accessibility Kit



Headphones



Twist & Spin Rod



Fuzzy Coil



Fuzzy Tangle



Gel Bracelet



Skyscraper Fidget



Link Fidget



Visual Timer



Wrist Fidget



Puzzle Squeeze



Sequin Bracelet



Finger Grip



Toobaloo



Rabbit Fidget

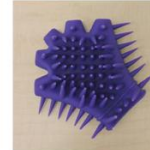


Hand Grip



DAKOTA
COUNTY
LIBRARY

Accessibility Kit



Gel Glove



Spiky Pickle



Hand Fidget



Adapted Scissors



Adapted Scissors



Sunglasses



Block Fidget



Tangle Toy



Chewy



Squeeze Ball



Mini Gel Pad



Earplugs



Braille Alphabet



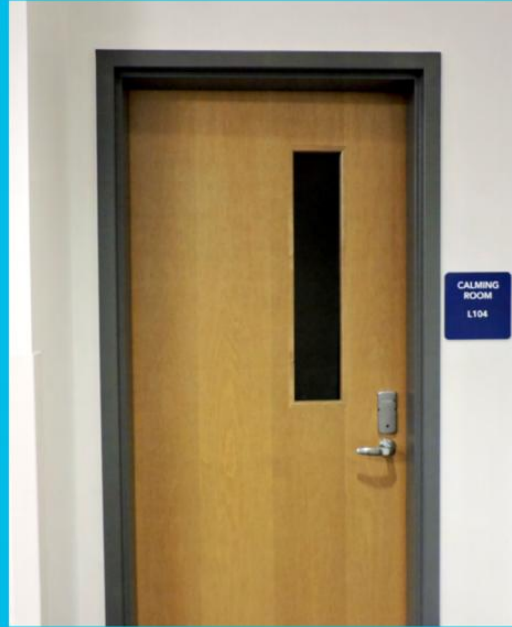
Nose Plugs

ausm
austrian society of missouri

FRASER
Special Needs & High Support

mi
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

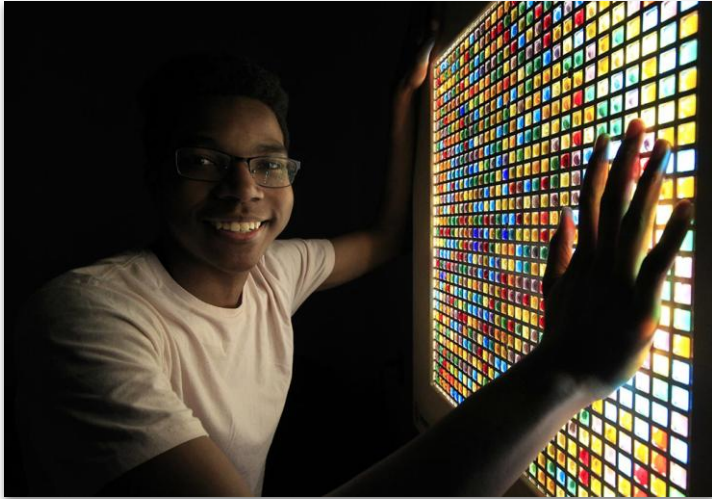
Inclusive Spaces: Calming Space at Galaxie Library



Calming Space Social Narrative

A social narrative
for using the
Galaxie Library
Calming Space

Inclusive Spaces: Calming Space at Galaxie Library



Key Elements

- Social Narrative
- User Guide
- Guidelines for Use
- Unlockable door with window

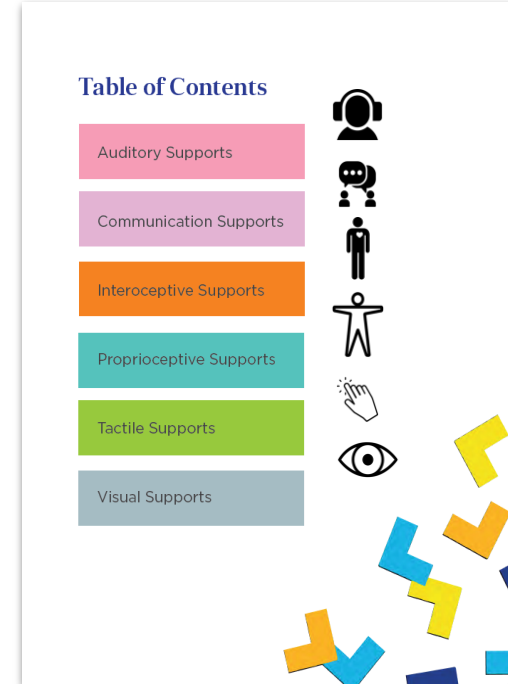
What's inside?

- Comfortable seating
- Adjustable lighting
- Sound machine
- Marble wall feature
- Noise-reducing headphones
- Weighted pad & fidgets
- Visual timers
- 5 Point Scale



Inclusive Spaces: Calming Space at Galaxie Library

Calming Space: room designated for those on the spectrum and/or individuals with sensory sensitivities to self-regulate; includes sensory tools for hyper- and hypo-sensitivity



Inclusive Programs: Early Opens



Sensory-Friendly Early Open

Galaxie Library, Dakota County Library System (MN)

ALL ARE WELCOME:

Visit Galaxie Library for an inclusive and accessible library experience that welcomes people of all ages and abilities, including those who are on the autism spectrum or those with various sensory needs. Participate in art activities, complete a scavenger hunt, make a button, watch a 3-D printing demo, try Sensory Storytime and more. For more information, go to www.dakotacounty.us/library, search *Early Open*.

- › Presented in partnership with the Autism Society of Minnesota and Fraser
- › Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services Disability Services Innovation Grant



Inclusive Programs: Early Opens

Regular library service; no registration

All ages and all abilities

3D Printing demos and button making

Family crafts and brief storytime

ASL Interpretation available

Participate with local community organizations

For more information:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/Programs/Everyone/Pages/sensory-friendly-early-open.aspx>



Galaxie Library, Dakota County Library System (MN)

Sensory-Friendly Early Open

Visit the Library for an inclusive and accessible library experience that welcomes people of all ages and abilities, including those who are on the autism spectrum or those with various sensory needs. Participate in art activities, complete a scavenger hunt, make a button, watch a 3D printing demo, try Sensory Storytime and more. Attendees may bring their own tools and supports with them to the program. American Sign Language interpretation will be available.

Upcoming dates and locations

- Sunday, June 2, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Galaxie Library
- Sunday, July 21, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Galaxie Library
- Sunday, Aug. 11, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Galaxie Library

Presented in partnership with the [Autism Society of Minnesota](#) and [Fraser](#). Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services Disability Services Innovation Grant.

Social narratives help reduce anxiety for individuals with autism and other disabilities by preparing for what is coming next. The [PDF Galaxie Library Social Narrative](#) will help prepare individuals for visiting Galaxie Library.



A calming space

At Dakota County Library, we want everyone to feel welcome and part of our Library community. As part of this mission, we now offer the calming space at Galaxie Library. The calming space is specially designed for individuals who need a comforting space to regulate while at the library, especially those with autism spectrum disorder, sensory processing differences or other disabilities. The calming space is available for all ages.

The space is equipped with a [PDF Calming Space Guide](#). This guide explains how to use the calming space and the tools and manipulatives in it, which include:

- Comfortable seating
- Adjustable lighting
- Sound machine
- Noise-reducing headphones
- Weighted blanket
- Visual timer
- Fidgets
- Tactile objects

Social narratives help reduce anxiety for individuals with autism and other disabilities by preparing for what is coming next. The [Calming Space Social Narrative](#) will help prepare individuals for using the calming space at Galaxie Library.

Inclusive Programs: ASL Celebration



American Sign Language Celebration (Video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tibHhG4hnzs>

Inclusive Programs: ASL Celebration

Partnership with Metro Deaf School in Faribault & MN State Academy for the Deaf

Promotion of MN Resource Libraries and library card sign-up

Presentation by local Deaf community advocate: ASL storytelling and voice narration, games, and activities

Community resources

ASL interpretation services by ASLIS



Farmington Library Branch, Dakota County Library (MN)

Inclusive Strategies: Social Narratives



Calming Space Social Narrative

A social narrative for using the Galaxie Library Calming Space



Going to the Library

A social narrative for visiting Galaxie Library



Learn more: <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/Using/Accessibility/>

Inclusive Marketing & Promotional Strategies

Consider stigma and misconceptions

- Summer Reading vs. Summer Discovery
- Sensory Storytime vs. Sensory-Friendly Saturdays
- Study Room vs. Meeting Room

Create an “Accessibility Services” webpage

Leverage rapport with community partners

Utilize ad space in non-traditional non-library publications


DAKOTA
COUNTY
LIBRARY

Find free programs,
services and
resources
for all
abilities.

› Accessibility kits
› Audio books
› Autism book club
› Calming spaces
› Computer classes
› Sensory-Friendly programs
› Social narratives
› **And more**

www.dakotacounty.us/library

In Progress
and
Coming Soon



Outcomes

Increased funding

Better trained staff

Informed community members

Increased accessibility of physical spaces

Increased engagement from new users



Outcomes

Stronger community connections

Increased awareness of the Library and services

New opportunities for cross-departmental partnership

Alignment with County priorities

Elevated position of the Library in the community



Increased opportunities for individuals with disabilities and their families to be visible, integrated and participatory members of the Dakota County Library community



Thank you!



Renee Grassi, Dakota County Library
@MissReneeDomain (Twitter)
reneeegrassi.com