A Calming Space

At Dakota County Library, we want everyone to feel welcome and part of our Library community, so we now offer the Calming Space at the Galaxie, Heritage and Pleasant Hill locations.

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 disability. Anyone can use the Calming Space.

The space is equipped with a guide to using the Calming Space and tools and manipulatives including:

- Comfortable seating
- Adjustable lighting
- Sound machine
- Noise-reducing headphones
- Weighted blanket
- Visual timer
- Fidgets
- Tactile objects
Our social narrative “Going to the Library” helps explain what to expect during a visit to the Library. Copies are available at the service desk, in the Calming Space or online at www.dakotacounty.us/library, search accessibility.

Libraries can be busy places. We hope the Calming Space will help you and your family enjoy your visit. If you have questions about the Calming Space, stop by our service desk or call.

Galaxie Library
14955 Galaxie Ave., Apple Valley 952-891-7045

Heritage Library
20085 Heritage Drive, Lakeville 952-891-0360

Pleasant Hill Library
1490 S. Frontage Road, Hastings 651-438-0200

Furniture and materials are made possible by the Minnesota Department of Human Services Disability Services Innovation Grant.

Special thanks to the Autism Society of Minnesota and Fraser for their assistance and guidance.