Transforming Libraries One Community at a Time

Presented By Tyler Williams and Renee Grassi
From Dakota County (MN) Library
Our Vision
Dakota County Library acts as a catalyst, connector, and partner to empower residents to build a successful community.

Our Mission
Dakota County Library cultivates community, creativity and learning.

Our Values
We provide positive and welcoming experiences.

We act inclusively, valuing and respecting differences.

We are knowledgeable, engaged and culturally aware.

We value free and open access to information, community talent and technology.
Sensory-Friendly Early Open
Program Outline

11 am-1 pm  Explore the library

11 am-12:30 pm  Therapy Dog Station
    Large Meeting Room

11:30 am  Sensory Storytime
    LT39 Large Meeting Room

12:50 pm  Overhead announcement made

1 pm  Library opens to general public

ASL interpretation provided by American Sign Language Interpretation Services
Partnership Programs: AuSM Book Club

Monthly club for individuals with autism, disabilities & neurotypical individuals ages 14+

All reading levels welcome; all formats supported

Participants vote on monthly themes: classic authors, mystery, historical, action, adventure, fantasy and sports

Goals

- Teach life skills on using the Library
- Socialization and connection
- Practice communication skills
- Support reading and literacy

https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/Programs/Adults/Pages/ausm-book-club.aspx
How the Calming Space Works

The Calming Space has been designed for individuals on the autism spectrum, those with sensory processing differences, and people with other disabilities. It can also be utilized by anyone who needs a calming space in order to self-regulate during their time at the library.

› Children should be supervised by a responsible caregiver to ensure everyone’s safety.

› Individuals can stay as long as they need in order to re-regulate before re-entering the library’s activities. Please be considerate if others are waiting.

› Keep all supports in the room.

› Ask for the library’s Accessibility Kit at the Information Desk if supports are needed outside the Calming Space.

› Wipe down the supports with cleansing cloths after use.

› Put away all supports after using them.

› Library staff are here to help. Please ask if you need assistance.
Don't let your learning lead to knowledge. Let your learning lead to action.

Jim Rohn
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.

Learn more:
https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/Programs/Everyone/Pages/sensory-friendly-early-open.aspx
KEEP CHANGING. 
KEEP ASKING. 
KEEP GROWING. 
KEEP EVOLVING. 
KEEP SUCCEEDING. 
KEEP MOVING. 
KEEP SHINING.....

Keep going...
KEEP ON LEARNING
Thank you!

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