

**Project Plan**

**Sensory Story Time for Neurodiverse Children**

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**LIS 6409**

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## **Sensory Story Time for Neurodiverse Children**

### **PROBLEM**

Children with autism, ADHD, developmental delays, or other types of neurodiversity need a unique style of learning different than neurotypical children. Traditional story time can be overwhelming for these children. Sitting still, sensory overload from amount of people, noise, or lighting, and difficulty interacting with other children or the storyteller are challenging to a child with neurodiversity. Parents can be hesitant to bring their neurodiverse child to traditional story time due to the feelings their child is disruptive.

### **SOULTION**

Youth services within the public library are proposing a new program – Sensory Story Time for Children with Neurodiversity. This program will be available to all children, but the focus will be on children with autism, ADHD, developmental delays, or other neurodiversity. Story time will take place in a sensory friendly environment with freedom to move around, sit in bean bag chairs, use fidget or other sensory toys, lower dim lighting, and the opportunity to ask questions and interact with the story. Sensory story time will utilize the existing story time room, converted to a sensory friendly room.

### **REQUIRED RESOURCES**

**Staffing:** The Youth Services Librarian will develop and run the program.

**Equipment:** To convert the story time room into a sensory friendly room, bean bag chairs, fidget and sensory toys will be available. Dimmers for the lights. A box for fidget and sensory toys will be needed.

**Training:** The Youth Services Librarian will attend an online seminar to learn about children with neurodiversity

### **PROJECT PARTNERS**

Library Customer Service

Florida Dept. Of Health – Autism Services

Early Steps Florida

Library Customer service will be integral in relaying information to patrons regarding the program, aid parents/guardians in signing up for story time and provide resource pamphlets and brochures to parents/guardians who inquire about services.

Florida Dept. Of Health – Autism Services and Early Steps Florida can supply informational pamphlets, brochures, displays, or business cards to provide resources for parents/guardians of children with

neurodiversity. Additionally, the project partners can advertise/recommend the library's story time to parents/guardians looking for sensory friendly services.

## ASSESSMENT

The program's success will be measured by recording the number of children attending the story time, a parent/guardian satisfaction survey about the program, and the number of inquiries regarding story time and additional resources. The goal is to have a positive parent/guardian/user satisfaction survey with the program while having consistent attendance of at least 3-5 children per story time.

## BUDGET

Salaries	Expenses	Comments
Youth Services Librarian 0.25 FTE	\$11,400	
<b>Benefits</b>		
Youth Services Staff 0.25 FTE	3420	Benefits at 30%
<b>Library Materials</b>		
None		
<b>Supplies</b>		
Bean bag chairs x 5	500	
Fidget toys x 20	23	Bulk package
Sensory toys x 10	17	Bulk package
Box for toys	40	
<b>Equipment</b>		
Light Dimmer Switch	50	
<b>Training</b>		
Autism Center Certification Free online Course	0	<a href="http://www.autismcertificationcenter.org">www.autismcertificationcenter.org</a>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,450</b>	

## TIMELINE

Due Date	Activity
February 6, 2023	Library Director approves project proposal
February 27, 2023	Library Director obtains approval and funding from City Directors for project
March 13, 2023	Youth services librarian complete course from Autism Center Certification website
March 20, 2023	Youth services librarian will meet with FL Dept of Health Autism Services and Early Steps to elicit support of pamphlet, brochures, display material, and potential advertising.

April 3, 2023	Meet with library marketing/website manager to develop messages to announce the service and schedule
April 17, 2023	Submit marketing/website messages to Library Director for approval
May 1, 2023	Communicate to all library staff regarding program and scheduling
May 8, 2023	Order all supplies and equipment
May 15, 2023	Develop assessment tools to analyze use of program and develop parent/guardian satisfaction survey
May 22, 2023	Organize story room to create sensory friendly environment
May 22, 2023	Announce to public the program and schedule on the website, signage in the library, and other marketing tools developed
May 29, 2023	Work with Library Director and library staff to develop library display regarding Sensory Story Time and resources available
June 1, 2023	Launch program, every Thursday at 10:00 am
December 1, 2023	Analyze data regarding the number of children attending the program, parent surveys, and inquiries regarding resources. Write project report.
December 14, 2023	Submit data and project reports to Library Director for review and to share reports with City Directors