

USING THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK PUPPETS WITH THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK EARLY LEARNING SERIES

The Kids on the Block puppets have been educating school-aged children about disabilities and social concerns since 1977. In 1997, The Kids on the Block, Inc. introduced *The Kids on the Block Early Learning Series* to bring some important lessons to younger, pre-school audiences. Three of our most popular characters, Mark Riley, Ellen Jane Peterson and Melody James appear in *The Kids on the Block Early Learning Series* which is set at “Riley Home Daycare,” run by Miss Bonnie (Mark’s mom). In addition to Mark, Ellen Jane and Mel, audiences meet some of the younger children in Miss Bonnie’s care—Suzette (Mark’s sister), Todd (Melody’s brother), Miguel (Renaldo’s cousin) and Mai (Nam’s sister). The four youngsters—along with the audience—learn some important life lessons on aggression, compassion and perseverance.

The following introductions may be used with any Kids on the Block puppet kid to incorporate an element of live puppetry into your presentations of *The Kids on the Block Early Learning Series*. After each story, stop the video and conduct the follow-up discussion (enclosed in the video sleeve) with your Kids on the Block puppet character.

The video contains three 10-minute segments and is best incorporated into the pre-school curriculum by showing a single segment followed by a brief discussion and activity.

We recommend using one of the three characters who appear within the video segments, Mark, Ellen Jane or Melody. If you use Mark, he should say “my mom’s daycare,” instead of “Miss Bonnie’s.” If none of these characters are available to you, you may use any Kids on the Block kid. The introductions and follow-up discussion should be performed from the puppet stage, just like a regular show. After you have completed the video presentation and discussion, you might leave logo stickers for the children (available from KOB, Inc. at 1-800-368-5437) or provide a copy of the logo coloring sheet which may be downloaded from our website, www.kotb.com.

BLOCKS–Aggression

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm one of the Kids on the Block. Today we're gonna learn about what to do when we get mad. Everybody gets mad sometimes, but what you do when you get mad is real important. Let's go over to Miss Bonnie's Daycare and see what happens when Suzette and Todd get mad.

SHOW VIDEO SEGMENT AND CONDUCT FOLLOW-UP.

MONSTER–Compassion

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm one of the Kids on the Block. We all have people who care about us. Maybe it's mom, dad or a grandparent... maybe another grown-up. Here _____ (name of teacher(s)) care(s) for you when you're at _____ (name of school or daycare center). Today we're gonna see what happens when Mai (*sounds like May*) and Miguel find someone who needs some help and needs to be cared for. Let's see what's going on in Miss Bonnie's back yard.

SHOW VIDEO SEGMENT AND CONDUCT DISCUSSION.

Now, my friend, _____ (puppeteer's name) is going to help everybody with a fun art project. So I'll see you later!

PASS OUT MATERIALS FOR "MY PET" ACTIVITY.

SHOES–Perseverance

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm one of the Kids on the Block. We all learn things in our own time. Some things are easier to learn. Some things are harder to learn. Over at Miss Bonnie's Daycare, Suzette is having a hard time learning something new. Let's go see what happens.

SHOW VIDEO SEGMENT AND CONDUCT DISCUSSION.

Now, my friend, _____ (puppeteer's name) is going to help everybody with a fun art project. So I'll see you later!

PASS OUT MATERIALS FOR "I CAN" ACTIVITY.