



The Kids on the Block Program on BRAIN INJURY

Featuring: Justin Campbell, Melody James and Shaun James

Melody is confused about her brother's friend Justin. She knows that since his brain injury, some things are different for Justin, but she doesn't understand HOW they are different. Justin agrees that brain injuries can be confusing and also explains, "Things sure are different for me now that I have a brain injury. But there are other ways that I'm the same as I was before. And in the MOST important ways, I'm the same as everybody."

The Kids on the Block Program on Brain Injury was developed with the cooperation of the Brain Injury Association of America and features 14 year old Justin Campbell, who sustained a brain injury a few months ago. Script material addresses the cognitive and emotional changes associated with brain injury and introduces some common compensatory strategies. The program also examines the impact on relationships with peers, the importance of embracing the present while considering goals for the future, and brain injury prevention. The complete curriculum consists of large hand-crafted puppets, four scripts, props, follow-up activities, and resources.

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**CALL OR WRITE TODAY
THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK, INC.**

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Script Summaries

A Book To Remember

Justin arrives at the James' home for his tutoring session with Shaun. When Shaun's sister Melody explains that Shaun is at the football field, Justin has difficulty with the change in plans. As Melody tries to give directions to the field, Justin's frustration increases. Then Justin explains his use of a memory book, and Melody asks about how Justin's brain injury has made some things different for him. **(Justin, Melody)**

Exhibiting Friendship

When Shaun announces that he has entered Justin's artwork to be considered for an important exhibit and that Justin has been selected, Justin becomes angry with his friend. Shaun soon learns that Justin is concerned about attending the opening night party because his brain injury makes it difficult for him to deal with chaotic situations. They discuss some of the social ramifications of Justin's brain injury, including friends' responses, and conclude that with proper preparation, Justin can participate in the exhibit. **(Justin, Shaun)**

Enjoy Today, Plan Tomorrow

Melody, concerned that a career fair might upset Justin, tries to keep him from entering the one taking place in the school gymnasium. Justin explains that while his brain injury has changed some things for him, he is in many ways like anyone else—he has strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, and aspirations for the future. They also discuss the importance of living in the “now.” **(Justin, Melody)**

A Happy Brain

Shaun is helping his sister Melody with her “Happy, Healthy Brain” project. Shaun recruits Justin, who has a brain injury and has learned a lot about brain injury prevention, to help her as well. Melody learns that a kid can keep a happy, healthy brain by following rules and taking precautions. **(Justin, Melody, Shaun)**

NOTE: After each script, the children in the audience are given the opportunity to ask their own questions directly to the puppet characters.

The Kids on the Block, created in 1977, features life-sized puppets who, through the magic of live puppet theatre, teach children and adults about disabilities, medical and educational differences, and social concerns. Through the hard work and dedication of many community-based groups, **The Kids on the Block** puppets are able to touch the lives of people all over the world.