



## The Kids on the Block Program on Cerebral Palsy

Featuring: Mark Riley, Melody James, Brenda Dubrowski and Ellen Jane Peterson

"I'm not 'confined' to anything, especially my wheelchair," says Mark. "My 'cruiser' helps me to get around."

**The Kids on the Block Program on Cerebral Palsy** features puppet character, Mark Riley, a 12 year old boy who is open and articulate about his particular type of cerebral palsy. Script material covers specific issues such as a description of cerebral palsy, Mark's use of his wheelchair and helmet, social concerns such as developing friendships, technological "cures," and the misperceptions conveyed about people with disabilities when fundraisers and telethons play on the sympathies of individuals.

The complete curriculum consists of large hand-crafted puppets, five scripts, props, follow-up activities and resources to teach children about cerebral palsy.



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

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# Script Summaries

## New Friends

When Melody James meets Mark Riley for the first time, she is curious about his wheelchair, his helmet and his speech difference. Mark encourages Melody's questions and explains about his condition, cerebral palsy. As Melody gains confidence, she asks what she believes to be the most difficult question of all. **(Mark, Melody)**

## Carrot Top

When Mark unjustly accuses Melody of forgetting to return his Monopoly game, the two good friends get into a heated argument. Mark realizes his error but it is Melody who insists on making an apology. The two examine the value of being honest, even about angry feelings, in relation to Mark's disability. **(Mark, Melody)**

## Bionic Legs

Brenda is embarrassed to discuss electronics and bionics with Mark since she believes that cerebral palsy can be "cured" with technology. When Mark responds that he is "purrfect," Brenda is curious to find out why. **(Mark, Brenda)**

## School Reporter

Mark is a reporter for the school paper. He arrives at Valley Animal Hospital to interview Ellen Jane about the animals she works with. In the end, it is Ellen Jane who interviews Mark. **(Mark, Ellen Jane)**

## Blockathon

After seeing a telethon on television, Melody and Brenda decide to surprise Mark with his very own "Blockathon." When he learns of the secret plan, Mark takes the time to talk with his friends about perceptions of people with disabilities. **(Mark, Brenda, Melody)**

**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 size 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.