



The Kids on the Block Program on Deafness

Featuring: Mandy Puccini, Brenda Dubrowski and Ellen Jane Peterson

Mandy Puccini is 12 years old and has been deaf since the age of two. As a toddler, she'd contracted meningitis which damaged the nerves in her ears. Mandy wears hearing aids and is able to pick up some loud sounds through them, like thunder.

The Kids on the Block Program on Deafness is designed to educate about deafness, both the medical condition and the culture. Script material promotes awareness and sensitivity among hearing children, encourages appreciation of differences in each person, explores some aspects of Deaf culture and the contributions of Deaf persons, and teaches some simple signs.

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



A TROUPE OF EDUCATIONAL PUPPETS

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

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Script Summaries

The Disappearance of Buttons

While Penny is looking for her cat, Buttons, she meets Mandy. With Mandy's help, Penny finds her cat, and in the process, learns a bit about what it's like for Mandy to be deaf. **(Mandy, and a puppeteer as an actor)**

The Princess and the Queen

Brenda is very excited to be playing the princess in a community play. When she discovers that her co-star, Mandy, is deaf, she has many questions. Mandy takes the opportunity to explain a bit about being deaf. **(Mandy, Brenda)**

A Trip to the Library

Mandy and Brenda are at Mandy's house preparing a research project for class. Brenda is surprised to learn of the many contributions Deaf people have made to society. **(Mandy, Brenda)**

Peanut Butter Cookies

Carol and Mandy are on their way to a surprise birthday party for Brenda. When Carol arrives to pick Mandy up, she finds that Mandy is not quite ready. Mandy and Carol take the opportunity to share several signs with the audience members. **(Mandy, puppeteer as an actor)**

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.