



The Kids on the Block Program on Diabetes

Featuring: Christine Kontos, Joanne Spinoza, and Nam Nguyen

“For me, having diabetes means that I have a problem with the sugar in my blood. I do all kinds of things; ballet, gymnastics, baseball, but I have to plan for my activities. I eat certain foods at certain times, and I try not to do too much exercise all at once unless I eat extra snacks,” Christine Kontos tells her friend, Joanne.

The Kids on the Block program on Diabetes was developed to educate children about diabetes, to address issues pertaining to this condition, and to promote sensitivity toward persons with diabetes. The complete curriculum consists of large hand-crafted puppets, four scripts, props, follow-up activities and resources.



A TROUPE OF EDUCATIONAL PUPPETS

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Script Summaries

Safety Patrol

When Christine has an insulin reaction while working as a crossing guard, Joanne accuses her of “eating candy and sitting down on the job.” Christine then takes the opportunity to explain about her insulin dependent diabetes (Type 1 or Juvenile Diabetes) and what it means for her. **(Christine, Joanne, Nam)**

The Case of the Swiped Sandwich

When Nam mistakenly takes Christine’s lunch box thinking it is his, Christine gets upset, especially since it had contained a special snack she must eat before ballet. This incident begins a discussion about diabetes and Christine’s diet requirements. **(Christine, Nam)**

Insulin Shot

Nam is astounded when he finds out that Christine gives herself shots of insulin. When Christine explains a bit more about diabetes, Nam is surprised to discover how serious the condition can be. **(Christine, Nam)**

Hot Fudge Sundaes

Because Christine has diabetes and cannot eat many sweets, Nam suggests that Joanne not invite Christine to her birthday party. Instead, Joanne decides to talk to Christine about diabetes and to alter the menu to accommodate her friend. **(Christine, Joanne, Nam)**

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.