



The Kids on the Block Program on Down Syndrome

Featuring: Ellen Jane Peterson, Brenda Dubrowski, Melody James and Renaldo Rodriguez

The Kids on the Block Program on Down Syndrome features 17 year old Ellen Jane Peterson, who has Down syndrome. Ellen Jane attends her neighborhood high school and participates in a program which allows her to work at different jobs in the afternoons. Her job coach helps her to succeed in these positions and her favorite, so far, is her current job at the Valley Animal Hospital, where she assists the veterinarian. The program was developed in conjunction with the Arc of Montgomery County (Maryland) and with the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

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



A TROUPE OF EDUCATIONAL PUPPETS

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

1-800-368-KIDS

9385-C Gerwig Lane, Columbia, Maryland 21046

(410)290-9095 FAX:(410)290-9358

www.kotb.com

Script Summaries

At the Vet's

When Brenda arrives at the Valley Animal Hospital to pick up her dog, she meets Ellen Jane, the veterinarian's assistant. When Ellen Jane tells Brenda that she has Down syndrome and that for her, it means she learns slowly, Brenda is surprised that Ellen Jane can do so many things. Brenda then decides that since she doesn't learn slowly, she could do a better job than Ellen Jane. When Brenda tries to do Ellen Jane's job, she gains new respect for Ellen Jane's skills. **(Ellen Jane, Brenda)**

Planning Ahead

Melody is working on word problems in math and is getting increasingly frustrated. When Ellen Jane comes over to pick up some items that the James' are donating to the animal shelter, Melody welcomes the distraction from her school work. Together, Ellen Jane and Melody discuss jobs, job coaches and life skills, then Ellen Jane offers to use some of the skills she has learned to help Melody. **(Ellen Jane, Melody)**

Measuring Cups

When Ellen Jane has trouble stacking the measuring cups, Renaldo tries to help. Ellen Jane's difficulties illustrate some of the challenges she experiences and how persistence can help her overcome them. **(Ellen Jane, Renaldo)**

Out for Pizza

Ellen Jane's difficulties in reading a menu prompt Brenda to suggest they leave their favorite restaurant. Ellen Jane resists and initiates a conversation addressing Brenda's discomfort. Ellen Jane then solicits suggestions from the audience to help Brenda ease her embarrassment. **(Ellen Jane, Brenda)**

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.