



The Kids on the Block Program on Gifted and Talented

Featuring: Jinx Braxton and Brenda Dubrowski

Jinx Braxton is an outgoing 11-year-old girl who spends part of her school day in a resource classroom for gifted and talented children. Jinx is working hard at establishing and maintaining friendships with other children in her regular fifth grade class. Through Jinx, children come to understand that learning is more than getting right answers or straight A's. Like other children, Jinx must work hard at her schoolwork. And like other children, there is more to Jinx's personality than her abilities in the classroom.

The program consists of three scripts, props, follow-up activities and resources to teach children about the social aspects of being a child who is gifted and talented. Script material covers specific issues relating to myths about gifted and talented children, parental expectations, and friendships between children with differing academic abilities.



A TROUPE OF EDUCATIONAL PUPPETS

CALL OR WRITE TODAY
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Script Summaries

The Gee Whiz Quiz Show

When Brenda and Jinx are competing on the Gee Whiz Quiz Show, it is Brenda who saves the day and wins for her school by coming up with the right answer to the final question. Renaldo is surprised that Jinx, who is gifted and talented and participates in a special GT program, wasn't the one who knew all the answers. Jinx explains to Renaldo that having a special flair for learning doesn't mean she's a "computer brain" and that she is a regular kid. **(Jinx, Brenda, Renaldo)**

Best Friends

When Brenda has trouble with the same assignments that were easy for Jinx to do, she becomes upset and embarrassed. Jinx points out that no one excels at everything and the differences between the girls make their friendship special. **(Jinx, Brenda)**

The Family Letter

Jinx comes home from school to find her mom composing a letter which she plans to send to the entire family. As Jinx reads the letter aloud, she finds her mom has focused on schoolwork and on the fact that she's in a special program. Jinx tells her mother how important it is that people see her as a regular kid. Together, they discuss rewriting the letter to reflect a more balanced description of family activities and other facets of Jinx's personality apart from the label, "gifted and talented." **(Jinx, Mom played by a puppeteer)**

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 use the magic of live puppet theatre to 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.