



## **The Kids on the Block Program on Learning Disabilities**

**Featuring: Jennifer Hauser, Melody James and Brenda Dubrowski**

“Having a learning disability--I like to call it a learning *difference*--doesn't mean I can't learn. It means that I learn in a different way,” says Jennifer Hauser, who is 11 years old and is featured in **The Kids on the Block Program on Learning Disabilities**. Jennifer is candid and articulate about her "learning difference" and doesn't mind explaining to her friend, Melody, about her visual perception problem. Scripts cover such issues as relationships with family and friends, explaining what Jennifer's learning disability means and doesn't mean, and types of learning activities that take place in the resource room.

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



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

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# Script Summaries

## Tutor Pals

When Melody is confused by Jennifer's apparent difficulty at remembering left and right in contrast to her great skill in math, Jennifer explains that she has a learning disability and tells Melody what that means. After explaining, Jennifer is comfortable enough to allow Melody to read over and correct a letter she has written to her pen pal. As Melody discovers several errors, Jennifer becomes more embarrassed and finally blurts out her concerns that her pen pal won't want a friend with a learning disability. Melody considers Jennifer's dilemma, then demonstrates that friends accept you as you are. **(Jennifer, Melody)**

## Zap! It's Electricity

Jennifer experiments with static electricity. She explains to Melody about the discovery of electricity and all of its wonderful uses. She then explains that she and the brilliant Thomas Edison have something in common--a learning disability. **(Jennifer, Melody)**

## Baking In Color

As Jennifer and Brenda eat lunch, Brenda is confused about some special homework Jennifer had to do the night before. Jennifer shares some of the learning strategies she works on in the resource room including a theatre corner. Brenda comes to understand that even though the work seems fun, for Jennifer it's still WORK. **(Jennifer, Brenda)**

## Sticks and Stones

(early elementary school audiences)

On her way home from school, Brenda is teased and called names. Jennifer consoles her and dispels the myth behind the saying, "Sticks and stones will break my bones..." Jennifer and Brenda then ask for the audience's assistance to find solutions to teasing and name calling. **(Jennifer, Brenda)**

**NOTE: After each script the children in the audience are given the opportunity to ask their own questions or offer suggestions 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.