



The Kids on the Block Program on Siblings with Disabilities

Featuring: Michael Riley, Mark Riley and Melody James

For Michael, the identical twin brother of Mark Riley, it is sometimes difficult being a twin and sometimes difficult having a sibling with a disability.

Developed with assistance from various sibling support groups across the U.S., the **Kids on the Block Program on Being the Sibling of a Child with a Disability** features puppet character, Michael Riley, a 12 year old boy who is open and articulate about life with a brother who has a disability. Script material covers specific issues such as parental attention, accommodations of a sibling's special needs and general sibling rivalry.

The complete curriculum consists of large hand-crafted puppets, three scripts, props, follow-up activities and resources to teach children about sibling issues with or without disabilities.



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

Paper Airplanes

Melody is angry with Michael, Mark's twin brother. She is chasing Michael, yelling and screaming. Michael sees Mark and uses him, as some twins do when faced with untenable circumstances. Michael switches places with Mark. Unlike most twins, however, Michael must convince Melody that he shares his brother's disability for the ruse to work. **(Michael, Mark, Melody)**

Michael Darling

Michael bursts into the kitchen, ready to tell his mom about his science accomplishment. Instead he finds a list of chores and a note from his mom stating that she and Mark have gone to Mark's physical therapy session. Michael is hurt and angry and confronts Mark about all the extra time their parents spend with him. **(Michael, Mark)**

Oh, Brother!

Michael is upset that he did not defend Mark during an argument with another child. Michael explains why he feels guilty and begins "comparing notes" with Melody on what it's like having siblings with and without disabilities. Michael and Mel find that even though their circumstances are different, many of the joys and frustrations of having siblings are the same. **(Michael, Melody)**

NOTE: After each script the children in the audience are given the opportunity to ask their own questions and/or make 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.