

The Kids on the Block



**ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES' FREE
DISABILITY PROGRAM (A.P.P.L.E.)
INCLUDES FREE
KIDS ON THE BLOCK
PUPPET PRESENTATIONS TO
ALLEN COUNTY 3RD GRADERS!!
TO SCHEDULE A PERFORMANCE
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The Kids on the Block is a troupe of educational puppets that dress and act like real children. Each nearly life-sized puppet character has a distinct personality and life story. Like real children, some of the puppets have disabilities.

The Kids on the Block program is powerful in helping break down barriers, enabling children to be candid with their questions and concerns. The puppets also help children feel positive about themselves, accept individual differences and learn valuable personal skills.

The Kids on the Block puppets were first developed in 1977 in direct response to U.S. Public Law 94-142, sometimes called “the mainstreaming law.” Today the puppets are used to educate children all over the world about disability awareness and other important social concerns. There are **Kids on the Block** programs in all 50 states and more than 30 countries.

The style of puppetry used by the **Kids on the Block** is based on Japanese *Bunraku* Puppet Theatre. As in *Bunraku*, audiences are able to see Kids on the Block puppeteers. The large and colorful puppets are “shadowed” by the puppeteers who are dressed in black. Each **Kids on the Block** program is thoroughly researched and field tested before it becomes available to school districts, community service organizations and special interest groups.

All performances adhere strictly to scripts that are developed by the Kids on the Block, Inc. Headquarters in collaboration with nationally recognized organizations and numerous experts.

The Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities is able to offer free **Kids on the Block** performances in Allen County.

Committed staff from our agency & volunteers from our community have learned to use the entertaining medium of puppetry to present educational programs for children in 3rd grade. The **Kids on the Block’s** lively and upbeat scripts create an environment of open communication for the audience. Each performance includes scheduled question and answer periods during which audiences interact directly with the puppet characters. During this time myths and misconceptions are replaced with facts and sensitivity.

Each performance lasts from 40-60 minutes and is best performed for groups of 50-60 students. More than one performance may be scheduled for the same day. To check out the Kids on the Block website visit www.kotb.com



For information about other free disability awareness options offered click Disability Awareness (A.P.P.L.E) on the home page of our website.

The Lima & Allen County Medical Alliance donated the puppets and trained the puppeteers.