

Things to Do at Home

- **Use Social Stories**, a written-out script that describes what will happen at the library. Read the social story with your child before your library visit.
- **Use a Daily Activity Schedule**, which includes the time allotted for the library visit as well as other things your child will do. Review the schedule with your child throughout the day.
- **Develop a Sensory Diet**. Squeeze balls, swinging, brushing, therabands, gum chewing, weighted vests, etc. may help your child manage stress and organize himself. Use these tools before and during the library visit.
- **Time library visits for success** (when your child with ASD is not tired, hungry or overloaded, and when the library is relatively quiet and empty).
- If your child is nonverbal, **use a picture communication system like PECS** so your child can communicate directly with the librarian and others.
- **Find out details about any library program you plan to attend** so you can decide if it is developmentally appropriate for your child and so you can identify if any accommodations are needed.

Our librarians and staff hope that the guidelines in this brochure help make your library visits more productive and fun. Please let us know how we can continue to make the library more accessible for you and your child with ASD.

Things to do at the Library

- At a time when the library is quiet, **introduce your child with ASD to the library staff**, describing eccentricities and what is most likely to lead to meltdown. Request any needed accommodations and discuss with the librarians how best to meet your child's needs.
- **Facilitate transitions** for your child (for example, give him a ten and five minute warning before his computer time is up).
- **Stick to routines**, or prepare your child beforehand if you will have to deviate from routine.
- **Be on the alert for unusual noises or events** that could upset your child; like a running vacuum cleaner, or a substitute librarian at a story program. Take your child aside to address these issues. Sometimes this can help your child feel safe and avoid meltdown.
- **Don't be embarrassed** if your child is a little noisy, or talks out of turn to the librarian. If you have introduced him to the staff, they will make allowances for mild acting out behaviors.
- **If your child goes into meltdown** (screams, hits or tantrums) **remove him from the premises** (you can find out in advance if there is a quiet place in the library where you can bring your child at these times). When he is calm again you can return to the library.

**for more information about the
Special Needs Center visit
www.fergusonlibrary.org
and click on parents**

The Ferguson Library

Stamford's Public Library
203 964-1000

www.fergusonlibrary.org

Main Library

Monday–Thursday 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Harry Bennett Branch

Monday–Wednesday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Thursday 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Friday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

South End Branch

Monday–Wednesday 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Thursday 1 p.m.–7 p.m.

Friday Closed

Saturday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch

Monday 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday Closed

Saturday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Bookmobile

Call 351-8285 for schedule

Keys to a Successful Library Visit for your child with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder)



The Special Needs Center at The Ferguson Library