

Programming for Adults with Special Needs: VLA 2017
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Exploring Books Sample Program

- Welcome group as they arrive.
- Speak to each person and use their name. Look them in the eye. Ask about things you know they are interested in. Speak to people even if they are incapable of speaking back.
- Ask the group about what they've done since the last meeting.
- Introduce the day's topic.
- Read a picture book and talk about it.
 - *The Extraordinary Music of Mr. Ives* (Joanne Stanbridge)
- Have a group activity (e.g. pass the page dot-to-dot, table football, simple craft)*
 - Divide into groups of three
 - Each person draws one line of the dot-to-dot
 - Pass page until all lines are drawn
- Have a solo coloring page*
 - Musical instrument, orchestra, or band coloring page
- While coloring, summarize the chapters already read and read a chapter from the chapter book*
 - *Sam the Man and the Rutabaga Plan* (Frances O'Roark Dowell)
- Ask for ideas for next meeting and give any general announcements
- Say goodbye to group and individuals
- * Alternately, have a more involved activity, like taking a walk and blowing bubbles, a scavenger hunt, or making a more complex craft and skip the solo coloring and chapter book time.
 - Everyone gets a percussion instrument
 - Go outside for a parade
 - Walk around the block, playing the instruments
- Recognize the different ability of each individual. An opportunity for them to grow and be challenged.
 - Have color-by-number with only three colors for the less skilled
 - Have color-by-number with ten colors for the more advanced

Successful Activities

- Fire truck visit
- Walk a few blocks and blow bubbles at town square
- Corn hole (active games with beanie babies)
- Nature walk and scavenger hunt
- Pin button machine
- Movies
- Making applesauce or cookies (Cooking classes, simple things so each can be involved)
- Bingo
- Dancing

- Using music for a bit of variation (Our group loves percussion instruments. Some participants who rarely engage are enthralled when the instruments come out.)
- Rock balancing

Less Successful Events

- Egg carton turkeys
- Acorn cap owls
- Greeting cards with writing
- Kids' SRP programs (e.g. magician). Some of the adults become overwhelmed by all the activity. Let counselors decide what is appropriate.