

A performance by the **Kids on the Block** is more than a demonstration of inclusion, more than an instructional session on various disabilities, and more than an entertaining performance. It is the unforgettable opportunity to get to know Abbie, Anna, Brenda, David, Mark, Michael, Ellen Jane, Eddy, Melody, Joanne, Mandy, Jennifer, Renaldo, Brian, and Nam as just regular kids on the block.

Performances can be organized for groups up to fifty and for adults as well as children. The set design, length of the show, and number of performing puppeteers are adjusted according to accommodations and audience size.

A **Kids on the Block** performance combines knowledge of special education and experience with disability in a creative and dramatic medium: puppetry. Kids on the Block performances are based on an ancient Japanese form of puppetry called Bunraku, in which the audience is allowed to see the puppeteers, who are dressed completely in black.

Specific questions about disabilities are answered by the puppets and puppeteers. This exchange with the audience reinforces the unique and often humorous communication of facts and feelings that is the essence of each performance.



Barber National Institute

Family Support Services
100 Barber Place
Erie, PA 16507
(814) 878-4117
BarberInstitute.org

Kids on the Block

A Troupe of Puppets that Educates Children
About Individuals with Disabilities



Barber National Institute
Making dreams come true.

The Kids on the Block

Kids on the Block is a troupe of very likeable Puppets, with and without disabilities, designed to teach about differences in people. Disabilities include ADHD, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Blindness, Metal Retardation and Hearing Impairments. The goal of this program is to help shape the attitudes of children toward classmates with disabilities. Programs can be presented in schools, Scout groups, and a variety of other settings. This program is offered at no cost to all schools in Erie County.

The KIDS can teach children in your school or community group to accept and appreciate the differences among us.

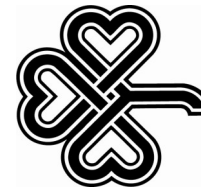
They are a special bunch of kids and a very special group of puppets. They dress and act like real children. They are nearly life-sized. Like real children, each has definite likes and dislikes, hopes and fears, talents and limitations. And, like real children, some have differences like intellectual or physical disabilities, and some have real challenges in their lives.

The **Kids on the Block** puppets respond with clarity and candor to the many questions asked by the school children who participate in the program. The fact that the show utilizes puppets allows for a unique and effective brand of communication—especially because children are often reticent to interact freely with adults.

The best part is that everyone—both children and adults—can learn from each of the **Kids on the Block**. They can learn an attitude of understanding, compassion, and sensitivity that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.



“Not the world as it is... the world as it should be”



The **Kids on the Block** program is sponsored by the Erie County Department of Human Services and the Barber National Institute Family Support Services department. For information or to schedule a presentation, please call (814) 878-4117 or complete the form below and return it to:

Family Support Services
Barber National Institute
100 Barber Place
Erie, PA 16507

Contact Person: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

School or Organization: _____ **Grade:** _____

Date Requested: _____

Thank You!