



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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Milton Public Library Wins the “2020 Autism Welcome Here: Library Programs, Services, and More” Grant

Milton Public Library (MPL) is thrilled to announce it has been selected as a winner of the “2020 Autism Welcome Here: Library Programs, Services, and More” grant for a “Sensory Kit Lending Library” project in collaboration with Project Autism and the Halton Youth Disability Advisory Council (HYDAC).

HYDAC is a group of young people of all abilities between the ages of 14 – 29, who work to make a difference in their communities throughout Halton region. Their goal is to empower young people to have a voice, encourage participation in the community, build awareness, and promote acceptance for all abilities.

HYDAC has worked hard to fundraise for Sensory Kits that will assist library patrons with sensory processing disorders. Kits will include a variety of sensory materials and manipulatives, chosen by the members of HYDAC, and will be available for in-library use during visits or programs when patrons need them. The initiative plays an important role in promoting and enhancing community awareness and highlighting the library as an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming space.

MPL applied for the “2020 Autism Welcome Here: Library Programs, Services and More” grant in support of HYDAC’s proposed initiative, and with the guidance of HYDAC members. The selection committee was especially impressed with the degree of involvement young adults with autism will have in this ongoing initiative.

“We see the sensory need with youth in the community, and that’s why this initiative is so important,” wrote members of the HYDAC group. “Sensory toys can make all the difference to a family trying to go to the library for reading, story time, and studying, and that really matters. The kits will provide sensory items to help sooth, calm, and stimulate learning.”

The next meeting will be held Thursday March 5, 2020, at 7:00pm at Beaty Branch, during which the members of HYDAC will present MPL’s Chief Librarian, and Deputy Chief Librarian with the funds they have raised. MPL’s Teen Services Librarian, Lisa Portelli, will also be in attendance to announce the grant award.

For more information, please contact Lee Puddephatt, Manager, Public Service at lee.puddephatt@beinspiredatmpl.ca

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