

## Welcome!

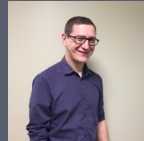
The staff at the Bloomfield Township Public Library are here to help! Librarians can recommend developmentally appropriate titles and assistive technologies. We are available during library hours in person, by telephone at 248-642-5800, or by email: [askbtpl@btpl.org](mailto:askbtpl@btpl.org).

### Special Needs Collection Librarians:

**Jen Taggart**  
Assistant Department Head,  
Youth Services  
[taggartj@btpl.org](mailto:taggartj@btpl.org)



**Ed Niemchak**  
Adult Services Librarian  
[niemchae@btpl.org](mailto:niemchae@btpl.org)



**Marian Rafal**  
Department Head, Youth Services  
[rafalmar@btpl.org](mailto:rafalmar@btpl.org)

**Laura Kraly**  
Department Head, Adult Services  
[kralylau@btpl.org](mailto:kralylau@btpl.org)

## Check It Out



### Library cards at BTPL:

Residents of Bloomfield Township can apply for a card with a valid photo ID showing residence in Bloomfield Township. If you are not a resident, but live within The Library Network (TLN) service area (<http://tln.lib.mi.us/md/>), you may be eligible to register for a card at your home library first and then bring in your home library card and valid photo ID to register your card here. (Exceptions may apply.) For more information about library cards, please see <http://btpl.org/services/circulation-information/>.

## Bloomfield Township Public Library

1099 Lone Pine Road  
Bloomfield Township, MI 48302  
(248) 642-5800  
[www.btpl.org](http://www.btpl.org)

## Bloomfield Township Public Library

# Literacy for People with Special Needs



### Literacy for people with disabilities:

- Literacy skills are needed to communicate and participate!
- The ability to spell can allow a non-verbal person to “say” anything they want with a communication device.
- The ability to read can allow a person who is deaf or hearing impaired to communicate/participate and engage with captioned media.
- Education, self confidence, quality of life, and enjoyment all may depend on a person’s ability to read and/or write.

### 5 Strategies to use when reading a book to a person with special needs:

*(Friendship Circle)*

1. Use visuals and manipulatives.  
*(Check out the story boxes in our Special Needs Collection! These come with a book and tactile manipulatives representing items in the story.)*
2. Ask questions, give choices, encourage creative thoughts.
3. Choose books that are age and cognitively appropriate. *(Ask a librarian for suggestions!)*
4. Use expression when reading. Studies have shown that using expression while reading improves a person’s ability to comprehend the story better, especially for those who are blind or deaf. *(Come to story time to learn how to engage learners with expression.)*
5. Relate the story to the person’s experiences.

## Circulating Special Needs Collections

### Youth Services

[www.btpl.org/youth/special-needs/](http://www.btpl.org/youth/special-needs/)

The Youth Special Needs Collection at the Bloomfield Township Public Library is a circulating multi-media collection serving youth with disabilities and their caregivers/educators. The collection includes books, therapeutic toys, signed story kits, Discovery Skills Kits, story boxes, speech therapy card sets, interactive books, books in Braille, large print books, high-interest/low-reading level books, DVDs, music & activity CDs, and an inclusive technology station designed for students of all abilities.

### Adult Services

The Adult Special Needs Collection at the Bloomfield Township Public Library is a new and growing collection. This circulating collection currently has high-interest, low-reading level fiction titles as well as guides for those who want help with navigating daily life. In addition, we have an iPad available loaded with apps for adults and teens with special needs.

### Other online resources:

Gallaudet University  
<http://www3.gallaudet.edu/clerc-center/info-to-go/literacy.html>

Paths to Literacy  
<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/>

Friendship Circle  
<http://www.friendshipcircle.org/>

Monthly adaptive story times:

SENSEational Story Time (for youth)

Adult and Teen Sensory Story Time



Special Needs Family Fun “Before-Hours” and “After-hours” events at the Library  
Families of all ages with special needs can explore the library at a less-crowded, sensory-friendly time, with visual aids and engaging activities.

Check [catalog.btpl.org/iii/calendar/month](http://catalog.btpl.org/iii/calendar/month) for more details on Library events.

### Prepare before you visit

The Autism Alliance of Michigan created these social narratives to help families prepare for a visit to the Bloomfield Township Public Library:

<https://bit.ly/2QOP3Ah>

<https://bit.ly/2QOPudT>