

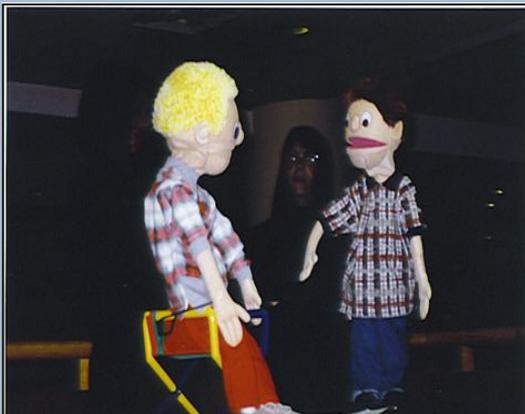
MEET OUR “KIDS”

Brian and Ricky are walking home from school. While talking about a new movie, Brian suddenly has a seizure. Ricky gets excited but remembers what Brian had told him to do. Brian wakes up and the next day the two friends begin to talk about seizures...

Thus begins ESSNY’s new **Kids On The Block Program on Epilepsy**. The KIDS are a special troupe of disabled and non-disabled puppets. They dress and act like real children and are nearly life-size. Like real children, each one has definite likes and dislikes, hopes and fears, talents and limitations.

Audiences interact directly with the puppet characters during a question and answer session at the end of each program. This unique form of communication provides young people with a safe environment to learn and to develop an attitude of sensitivity and understanding of differences.

The Epilepsy Society of Southern New York is providing free puppet programs to children and adults. Please call **Jean Collins, Community Educator (845-627-0627, ext. 148)** for further information or to schedule a program for your school, organization, or special event..



Would you like to learn the art of Sesame Street-style puppetry and volunteer your time to visit schools and perform with the puppets? Or would you like to “adopt a puppet” to help support this program and enjoy the acknowledgement of your support in all media coverage that our troupe receives? Please call **Jean Collins, Community Educator at 845-627-0627, extension 148 for more information.**



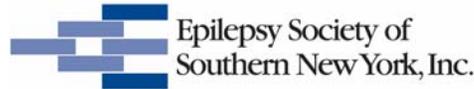
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Kids on the Block Program on Epilepsy is designed to encourage understanding and acceptance of children who have seizure disorders or other disabilities. This curriculum is an educational tool that:

- Explains/defines epilepsy and seizures
- Examines other elements of seizure disorders, including friendships
- Models good seizure first aid practices
- Reveals the social and emotional impact of epilepsy
- Introduces the concept of fairness
- Emphasizes the sameness of people with disabilities and people without them
- Teaches children to avoid assumptions about another person’s abilities
- Encourages children to talk about their feelings and ask questions
- Shows children accepting others’ differences
- Establishes positive attitudes and behaviors

Hi, I'm Brian. You might not know that when people talk about me they can use words that hurt my feelings.

For instance, I'm not an "epileptic." I'm a boy who has epilepsy. People who have disabilities are, first of all, people, and I feel better when you see that my differences are only a small part of who I am.



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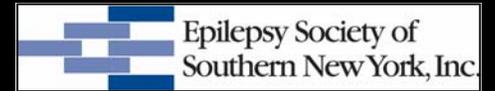
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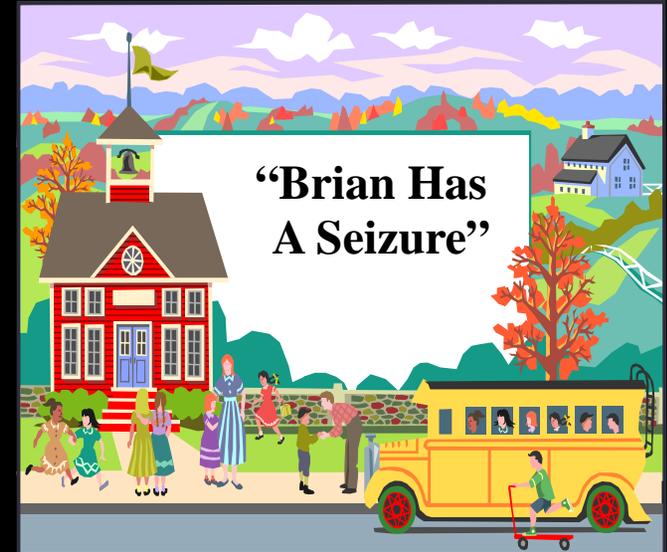
Executive Director

Contract agency of: Office of Mental
Retardation & Developmental Disabilities,
VESID,
Department of Health, Counties of
Dutchess, Orange, Rockland &
Westchester,
Epilepsy Coalition of New York State, Inc.

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**The Kids On The Block's
interactive program to teach
children about seizures, about
being different, and about
being a good friend.**

