

AN INVITATION FOR THE CANAL WINCHESTER BRANCH

Let's celebrate World Down Syndrome Day at the library!



Celebrate 3.21 is a Canal Winchester campaign that invites the whole town to celebrate people with Down syndrome during 3.21 Week, March 15–21, 2027. We'd love for the library to be at the heart of it.

WHAT IS CELEBRATE 3.21?

A program of **Continue the Story**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. World Down Syndrome Day is **March 21** (3/21) because Down syndrome means three copies of the 21st chromosome. In 2027 it falls on a Sunday, so we're celebrating all week: schools, churches, businesses, and families wearing fun socks, reading, learning, and making room for everyone.

WHY THE LIBRARY?

- Books are how kids first meet people who are different from them
- Story time reaches the youngest families in town
- The library is free, public, and open to everyone
- Your new building has the space: a children's area, a Learning Center, meeting rooms, and a Quiet Room

Our three asks

1

Feature books in March

ALL OF MARCH 2027

A display of books with main characters who have Down syndrome, from board books to adult memoirs. We'll bring the list, signs, and bookmarks.

2

A 3.21 Story Time

SAT, MARCH 20

A special story time with books starring kids with Down syndrome, songs, and a sock craft. We'll bring volunteers and socks.

3

An Adapted Story Time

SUN, MARCH 21 (OR SAT)

A sensory-friendly story time for kids with disabilities and their families, on World Down Syndrome Day itself.

AND MORE WAYS TO JOIN IN (PAGE 4)

Staff socks, a craft station, bookmarks, purchase requests, and more. Pick what works for you: **participation, not obligation.**

ASKS 2 AND 3

Two story times on 3.21 weekend

One for everyone, and one designed for kids with disabilities, so every family has a way to join in.

3.21 STORY TIME

Saturday, March 20, 2027

Time: [e.g. 10:30 a.m.]

Ages 2 to 7 with their grown-ups · 30 minutes · children's area or Learning Center

TIME	WHAT HAPPENS
0:00	Welcome and sock check. Everyone shows their socks, and we have spares.
0:05	Read <i>I Am a Masterpiece!</i> by Mia Armstrong
0:12	Song: "Every Sock Is Different" (to "Twinkle, Twinkle")
0:15	Read <i>My Friend Isabelle</i> by Eliza Woloson
0:22	Sock craft: decorate a paper sock for a library sock wall
0:30	3-2-1 countdown, a feet photo, and take-home bookmarks

Backup books: *Be Quiet*, *Marina!*, *Best Buddies*, *I Am Connor*

ADAPTED STORY TIME

Sunday, March 21, 2027

Time: [e.g. 2:00 p.m.]

World Down Syndrome Day itself (the branch is open 1–5 p.m.). Or Saturday afternoon, if that works better.

- **Small group** with registration (about 8 to 10 families)
- **Softer lights and sound**, and no surprise noises
- **A picture schedule** so kids know what's next
- **Shorter books** with real photos, read more slowly, with repetition
- **Seating choices:** carpet squares, chairs, beanbags, or standing
- **Movement breaks** and sensory bins (textured socks!)
- **Come and go as needed**, with the Quiet Room open next door
- **Sign and picture support** for kids who use AAC
- Parents and siblings stay and join in

Good books for it: *Kids Like Me...*, *Learn ABCs*, *Be Quiet*, *Marina!*, *You Are Enough*

WHAT WE'LL BRING

- Two or three friendly volunteers per story time
- Fun socks for kids to take home [if a sponsor donates them]
- Printed crafts, bookmarks, and a sock wall banner
- A picture schedule and a "what to expect" story for families to read before they come
- Promotion to schools, preschools, churches, and families

IDEAS TO MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL

- A guest reader with Down syndrome, if a local self-advocate would like to (we'll ask, with no pressure)
- A local special education teacher or therapist to co-lead the adapted session [name, if available]
- A photo moment: the sock wall

A NATURAL FIT

Columbus Metropolitan Library has offered Sensory Storytime at other branches for families with sensory needs. A 3.21 weekend session could bring that experience to Canal Winchester families.

ASK 1 • ALL OF MARCH 2027

Feature books starring people with Down syndrome

Every title stars a person with Down syndrome. Here are our top picks. The full list has 38 titles by age, with a tracker to note what's on the shelf.

TITLE	AUTHOR	ON SHELF?	REQUEST?
BOARD & PICTURE BOOKS (AGES 0-8)			
<i>I Am a Masterpiece!</i> ★	Mia Armstrong		
<i>I Am Connor</i> ★	Connor Rodriguez		
<i>You Are Enough</i> ★	Sofia Sanchez		
<i>Kids Like Me... Learn ABCs</i>	Laura Ronay		
<i>Collette in Kindergarten</i> ★	Collette Divitto		
<i>My Friend Isabelle</i>	Eliza Woloson		
<i>Be Quiet, Marina!</i>	Kirsten DeBear		
<i>Best Buddies</i>	Lynn Plourde & Becky Ronan		
<i>Born to Sparkle</i> ★	Megan Bomgaars		
CHAPTER BOOKS & MIDDLE GRADE (AGES 6-12)			
<i>Sam's Top Secret Journal (series)</i>	Sean Adelman		
<i>A Storm of Strawberries</i>	Jo Cotterill		
<i>Benny on the Case</i>	Wesley King		
<i>The Good Hawk</i>	Joseph Elliott		
<i>Down Syndrome Out Loud (nonfiction)</i>	Melissa Hart		
TEENS & ADULTS			
<i>Rosie Loves Jack</i>	Mel Darbon		
<i>Count Us In</i> ★	Jason Kingsley & Mitchell Levitz		
<i>More Alike Than Different</i> ★	David Egan		

★ Written or co-written by a person with Down syndrome.

DISPLAY IDEAS

- A "Meet Our Friends" shelf in the children's area
- A teen and adult display near new releases
- Mismatched socks clipped to the display with clothespins
- A sign: "Different looks good here!" (we'll print it)

WE'LL PROVIDE

- The full **Down Syndrome Book List** (9 pages, by age)
- A spreadsheet tracker for staff: on shelf, on order, holds
- Display signs and 3.21 bookmarks with a QR code to the list
- Easy-Read and Spanish flyers for the desk

PICK WHAT FITS

More ways to join the fun

Every idea is optional. Check the ones you'd like, and we'll do the heavy lifting.

MORE WAYS TO TAKE PART

- ☐ **Rock Your Socks Day.** Staff wear fun socks on Friday, March 19, and snap a team feet photo.
- ☐ **Craft station all week.** A sock-coloring and sock wall table in the children's area (we supply printables).
- ☐ **Bookmarks at checkout.** 3.21 bookmarks with a QR code to the book list.
- ☐ **Grow the collection.** Purchase requests for titles CML doesn't have yet.
- ☐ **Teen volunteers.** Teens help run the craft station for volunteer hours.
- ☐ **A family conversation night.** Local self-advocates and families share their stories, in a meeting room.
- ☐ **A welcome for new parents.** Board books and our New Parent Welcome Packet available at the desk.
- ☐ **Share the news.** Library social posts and newsletter blurbs (we'll write them and supply graphics).
- ☐ **Every 21st.** After 3.21, a featured book on the 21st of each month to keep it going.

TIMELINE

Oct–Nov 2026	Meet and talk it through
Dec 2026	Confirm dates and add events to the CML calendar
Jan 2027	Check titles on the shelf; place purchase requests
Feb 2027	We deliver signs, bookmarks, crafts, and graphics
Mar 1	Display goes up
Mar 19–21	Socks, story times, and celebration!
After	We share photos and results, and say thank you

LET'S TALK!

[Your name] Celebrate 3.21 · a program of Continue the Story

[phone] · **[email]** · Celebrate321.org

Thank you for considering it. We'd love to find a quick time to meet with youth services staff and the branch manager.

QR CODE

FOR THE LIBRARY (OPTIONAL)

- ☐ Yes to the March book display
- ☐ Yes to the 3.21 Story Time (Sat, March 20)
- ☐ Yes to the Adapted Story Time (Sun, March 21)
- ☐ Let's meet to talk about more

Contact name _____

Best way to reach you _____