



# Children with Disabilities


**Creating Sensory-Friendly  
Library Environments**

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, showing rows of houses with grey roofs and green lawns. The houses are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with streets and driveways visible. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

**330,000**  
**residents**

A person is silhouetted against a bright, glowing light source at the top center of the frame. The person is standing in a crowd of other people, who are also silhouetted against the light. The overall scene is dark, with the light source creating a strong contrast and a warm, orange glow. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

**80,000**  
**under age 20**

A person is seated in a blue wheelchair on a wooden floor. They are wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a black vest with the word 'LOVE' in white letters, and leopard-print leggings. Their feet are in white sneakers with pink accents. The wheelchair has a blue frame and large black wheels. The background is a blurred wooden floor.

**6,229** students  
with disabilities



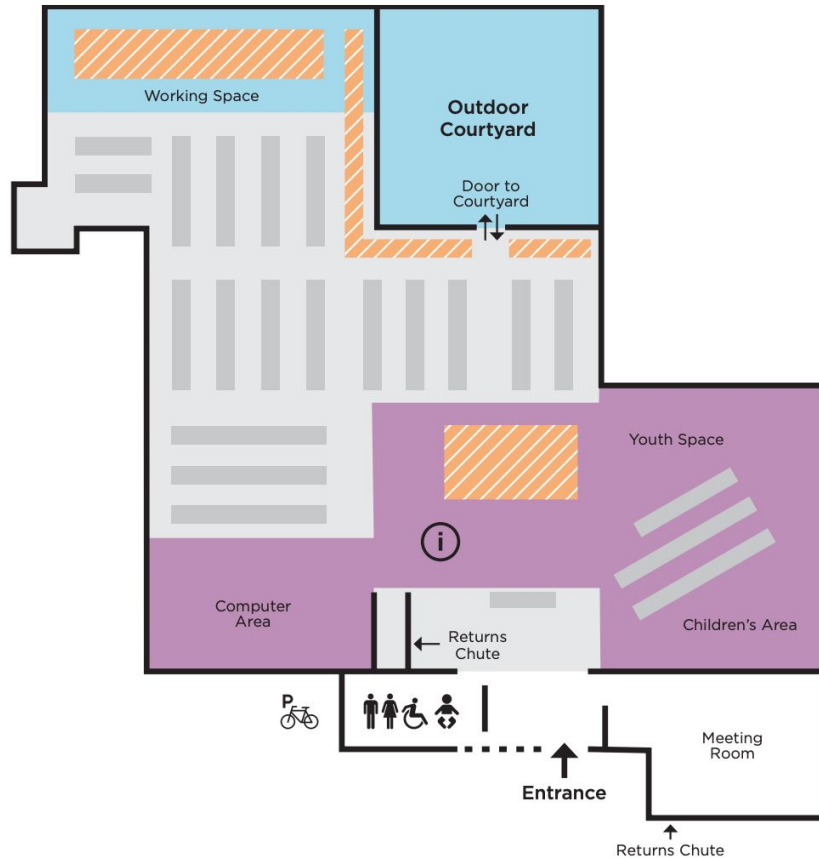
forgotten  
alone

# sensory kits



**headphones - fidgets - tactile exploration - weighted items - visual supports**

# Preston Library Sensory Map



Depending on the day of the week and the time of the day, the library can be quiet or noisy and busy with lots of activity.

There are no dedicated quiet areas at Preston Library, but there are areas that are often quieter than others. These are indicated on the map.

If you need help with anything, please speak to a library staff member. Look for an adult with a library uniform and name badge or go to the Information Desk.

## Low sensory spaces:

- Quieter areas with fewer people

## High sensory spaces:

- Busy, louder areas with a lot of visual and other stimuli

## Seating Areas



Darebin  
Libraries

# sensory maps



# information

**resources  
connections  
support**





**collaborate**  
who else serves these kids?

# funding

- Start-up Costs
  - Sensory Kits, Signs, Information Boards
  - Autism: Welcome Here Grant (\$5,000)
  - IMLS Grants
- Ongoing Maintenance
  - Replacement of broken items
- Staff Costs
  - Training compensation if additional to contract
  - Time (Organization, cleaning, similar to toys)



all are  
**welcome.**

# Image Credits

**Slide 1:** Attari, A. (2018, May 18). *Boy near white wooden shelf* [Photograph]. Unsplash. <https://unsplash.com/photos/SBlak0pKUIE>

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**Slide 3:** Bagües, R. (2018, June 26). *Girl standing surrounded by people during nightstand* [Photograph]. Unsplash. <https://unsplash.com/photos/rv4hxJmmzI4>

**Slide 3:** Whitt, J. (2016, October 4). *Woman hugging boy on her lap* [Photograph]. Unsplash. [https://unsplash.com/photos/KQCXf\\_zvdaU](https://unsplash.com/photos/KQCXf_zvdaU)

**Slide 4:** Nee, D. (2020, September 11). *Girl in black and white long sleeve shirt sitting on black wheelchair* [Photograph]. Unsplash. [https://unsplash.com/photos/wlutZH5oW\\_4](https://unsplash.com/photos/wlutZH5oW_4)

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<https://pixabay.com/photos/fidget-spinner-various-fidget-spinner-2471153/>

**Slide 7:** Daredin Libraries. (2019). *Sensory maps* [Image].

[https://www.darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au/Assets/Files/2019\\_Sensory%20Maps.pdf](https://www.darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au/Assets/Files/2019_Sensory%20Maps.pdf)

**Slide 8:** Pexels. (2016, October 24). *Post-it-notes-sticky-notes-note-1284667* [Photograph]. Pixabay. <https://pixabay.com/photos/post-it-notes-sticky-notes-note-1284667/>

**Slide 9:** CDC. (2020, April 28). *Boy in red crew neck t-shirt sitting next to boy in blue crew-neck* [Photograph]. Unsplash. <https://unsplash.com/photos/UqTrGSohyCs>

**Slide 11:** Hanlon, K. (2021, February 23). *Girl in white dress standing beside man in blue and white* [Photograph]. Unsplash. <https://unsplash.com/photos/xaG8oaZD7ss>