

CAN YOU SEE ME?

Supporting individuals with autism to access the library

BE CLEAR



Be clear and concise



Don't use figurative language - idiom and metaphors can be confusing



Don't rely on gesture, eye contact or body language to communicate or direct someone

BE ACCEPTING



Initiate social interaction, if the individual needs help they may not feel confident enough to ask



Keep social chit chat to a minimum. Stick to purposeful conversation



Support with social rules and conventions such as locating a seat

BE PREDICTABLE



Provide a limited number of options rather than free choices



Clearly explain the process for returning books



Be specific with questions (e.g. "are you looking for a specific book?" rather than "can I help you?")

BE SENSORY AWARE



Queuing may be particularly difficult so offer an alternative



Accept the individual using equipment such as dark glasses or ear defenders



Be aware that strong smells, bright lights and loud noises can cause distress