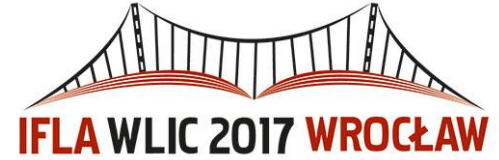




POLISH LIBRARIANS'
ASSOCIATION



Librarian makes friendship with people with autism

Aleksandra Sztajerwald

Polish Librarians' Association



AUTISM


Autism spectrum disorder

- 1 % of population
- 1 in 150 children (Poland)
- 1 in 68 children (United States.)*

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), March 2016




What we offer to people with autism:


- Kindergartens;
 - Schools;
 - Therapeutic activities.
- 




Partnership:

- Polish Librarians' Association;
 - SYNAPSIS Foundation;
 - People with autism spectrum disorder.
- 

What were the concerns of people with autism:

- Fear of failure;
 - New place;
 - Evaluation of other users;
 - Ignorance of the place;
 - Why should I go there?
- 

What were the concerns of the library staff:

- Difficulties with communication;
 - Unpredictability;
 - Lack of experience;
 - Myths and stereotypes about autism.
- 

Mains goals:

COMMUNICATION

MOTIVATION



Visits to libraries



Knowing libraries and their offer



Getting to know each other

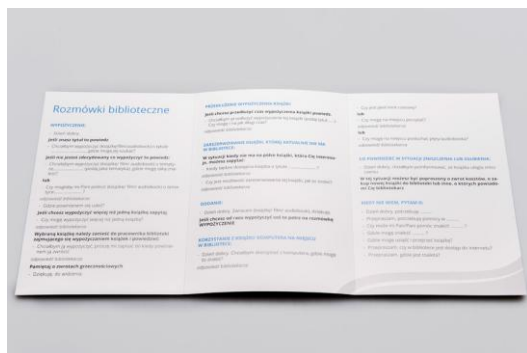
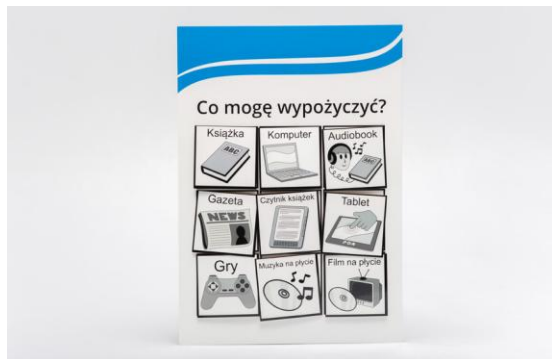


Tools test



Autism as a spectrum of behaviours





What was created during the project



Communication tools

Library Phrasebook



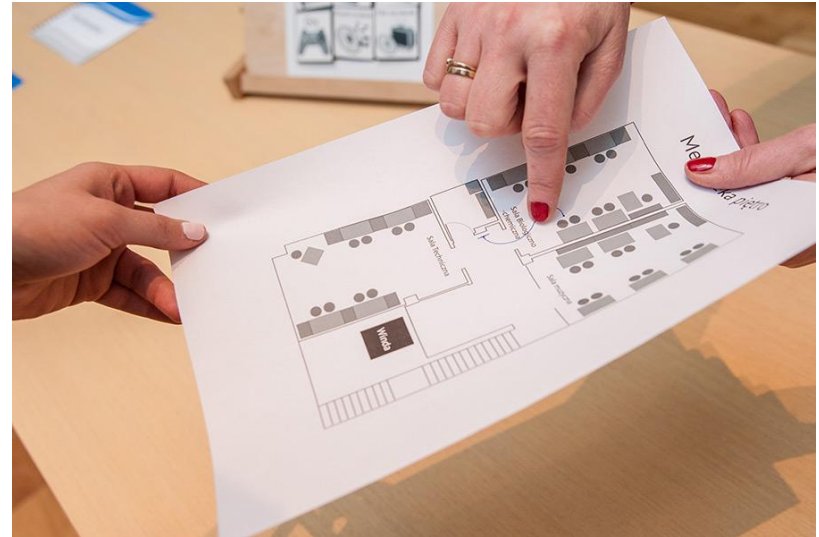
Communication tools

Booklets "I want to rent" and "I want to use"

Communication tools - pictograms



Maps



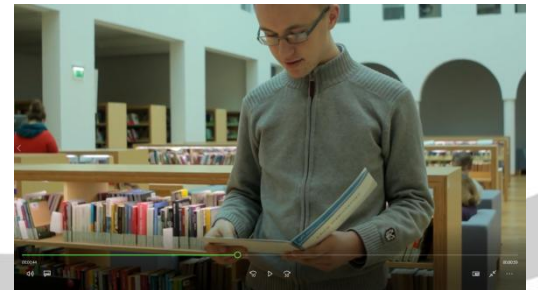
Movies:

- Library
- I'm setting up a library card
- I want to borrow...
- I want to borrow...- pictograms
- I want to use ...
- Returns books

WYPOŻYCZAJĄC Z BIBLIOTEKI PAMIĘTAJ:

Korzystaj z pomocy ułatwiających komunikację, np. Przybornika bibliotecznego lub Książeczek do wypożyczenia.

< Pamiętaj, pracownik biblioteki chętnie Ci pomoże.






Gamification

Gamification



Summary

- **31** people with autism involved in the project;
 - **19** visits to libraries;
 - **49** librarians were trained;
 - **6** training films;
 - **8** communication tools;
 - **40** aid toolkits were designed and delivered to 38 participant libraries;
 - **400** copies of the publication summarizing the project
- 



Libraries participating in the project

Most important project results:

- Libraries interest in autism;
- Raising awareness of the problem;
- Breaking barriers;
- Encouraging librarians to organize workshops and classes for people with autism.



What challenges are we facing now:



- Promotion;
- Networking;
- Convictions that it is worth to use.

**Thank you for
your attention!**

