

ACOD Newsletter

KIDS ON THE BLOCK



Francesca Lionetta and the Kids on the Block puppets

We are delighted that we were able to sponsor the initiation of the KOB (Kids on The Block) Autism Program, here in Andover. An educational program through puppeteers and plays, our selected program was on Autism. The local chapter of Best Buddies, a program within the Doherty Middle School, will champion this program, following through on training and presentations. In our constant quest to create disability awareness in our community, the Andover Commission on Disability will provide a consultative role and monetary support for this important Disability Awareness Program. The Kids on the Block, a troupe of Educational Puppets, are life-sized and act and look like real kids. This program is part of a successful education program that teaches

children about real-life topics, such as prejudice, differences, disabilities, diversity and other social concerns. Kids on the Block presentations consist of powerful and attention-getting scripts with question and answer sessions that help keep children interested as well as involved along with interactive simulations for students to experience different challenges. The Kids on the Block program encourages children to learn positive attitudes toward others and to increase awareness, sensitivity and acceptance of all differences. The initial performance is planned for Spring 2010 at a local elementary school. If you would like to be involved with this exciting program or would like additional information, please see our web site.

VAN ACCESSIBLE PARKING



There must be clearance for the equipment to operate and for the chair user to disembark.

Van accessible spaces do not have to be provided separately if the property owner provides that all HP spaces are "universal" in size, that is, 11 feet wide with a 5 foot access aisle. For further details, please refer to the web links below for the State and Federal Disability Laws relating to HP parking.

*State AAB Regulations: 521: CMR: ARCHITECTURAL ACCESS BOARD, Section 23
http://www.mass.gov/Eeops/docs/dps/aab_regs/521023.pdf

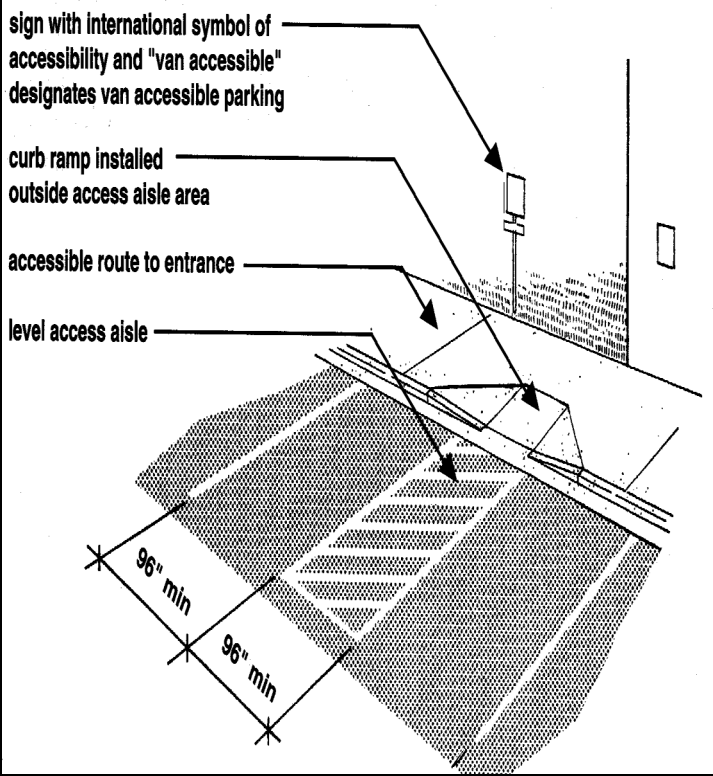
Federal ADA Regulations: Section A 4.6
<http://www.ada.gov/stdspdf.htm>

Justin Coppola Jr. demonstrates that an eight foot aisle is required to allow a wheelchair to enter a van accessible van. Striped area is the required eight feet.

Minimum of 1 Van Accessible space required in all parking lots

Public parking for 25 vehicles or less must provide at least one handicap parking space; 26 to 40 vehicles, no less than 2 HP spaces, etc. If there is only one HP space, it must accommodate a van. In larger parking lots or garages, there must be one van size HP space for every 8 accessible parking spaces. Each van space must have a sign designating it "Van Accessible". This sign should be 5 to 8 feet from the ground to the top of the sign.

Federal and state law* specify that an HP Van Accessible space must be 8 feet wide for the vehicle plus an 8 foot wide access aisle and 8 feet 2 inches of vertical clearance. The chair user may exit from a side door which has a hydraulic lift.



Schematic of HP Parking requirements