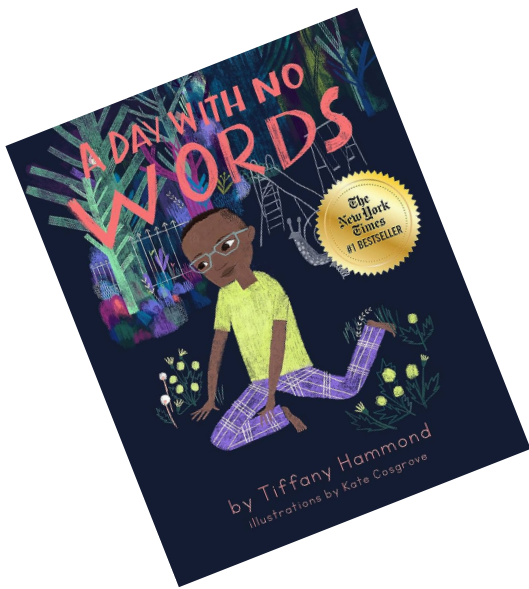


# SOMA Celebrates Neurodiversity An Event with Autistic Author & Advocate Tiffany Hammond



A Social Narrative for  
Adults/Adolescents  
By



**Together  
We Bloom**

CONNECTION  COMMUNICATION  COMMUNITY

## **About Social Narratives**

Social Narratives are first-person narratives written to introduce a new, unexpected, or challenging situation with simple language and pictures. They help the reader know what to expect and provide options for support.

Anyone can benefit from learning about situations ahead of time but social stories are often particularly helpful for neurodivergent individuals including Autistic people or people with anxiety.

Social stories should be used as a tool to empower and support inclusion and access, not to force compliance with social norms.

This social narrative was created by Together We Bloom. We believe community events and celebrations will be better for all of us when we prioritize accessibility and expand inclusivity of our disabled neighbors.

Together We Bloom is a local 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to empower young children with disabilities and their families through equitable access to connection, communication, and community. We advance this mission through two vital strategies: sliding-scale, neurodiversity-affirming speech and language therapy and disability justice, equity, and belonging initiatives to make our community a more inclusive place.

**To learn more or support our work for inclusion please visit: [www.TogetherWeBloom.org](http://www.TogetherWeBloom.org)**



I'm going to an event called "SOMA Celebrates Neurodiversity." This is a public event featuring a presentation and book signing by Autistic speaker, author, and advocate, Tiffany Hammond.

Tiffany is the author of the social media account "Fidgets and Fries" (@fidgetsandfries) and children's book *A Day with No Words*. More information about Tiffany and her book is at the end of this narrative.

It is on Monday, April 15th at 7pm at The Baird Recreation Center, 5 Mead St, South Orange.

**SOMA CELEBRATES NEURODIVERSITY**

EVENT WITH AUTISTIC AUTHOR & ADVOCATE TIFFANY HAMMOND

Monday, April 15th, 7pm  
Doors open at 6:30pm  
The Baird Recreation Center  
5 Mead St, South Orange

*A DAY WITH NO WORDS*  
by Tiffany Hammond  
Illustrations by Kate Cosgrove

RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

THE NEW YORK TIMES #1 BESTSELLER

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Together We Bloom

BALANCED KIDS

SEPAC SOMA  
SPECIAL EDUCATION  
SOUTH ORANGE MUNICIPALITY  
SOUTH ORANGE RECREATION CENTER

COMMUNITY COALITION ON RACE

Defining Development

JESPYHOUSE  
INDEPENDENCE FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

When entering the Baird on April 15, there will be tables set up by local organizations that align with Tiffany's mission of inclusion and embracing neurodiversity if event participants want to connect with them or get involved locally.

The speaker part of the event will be held in the “Stage & Screen Room” on the third floor of The Baird.



To find the Stage and Screen room, enter from the front entrance, turn right to walk around the front desk and then left down the main hallway.

The elevator is located on the left side of that hallway. Take the elevator to Floor 3.

Turn left out of the elevator and then right at the corner of the hallway. The room will be on your right.



T R A I N



# Map of The Baird

## Sensory-Friendly Quiet Room

# 1



- Elevators
- Restrooms
- Dance Studios
- Library Services
- Pierro Gallery
- Baird Lounge & Cafe
- Administration
- Conference Rooms
- Gyms
- Craft Rooms
- Stage & Screen
- The Loft

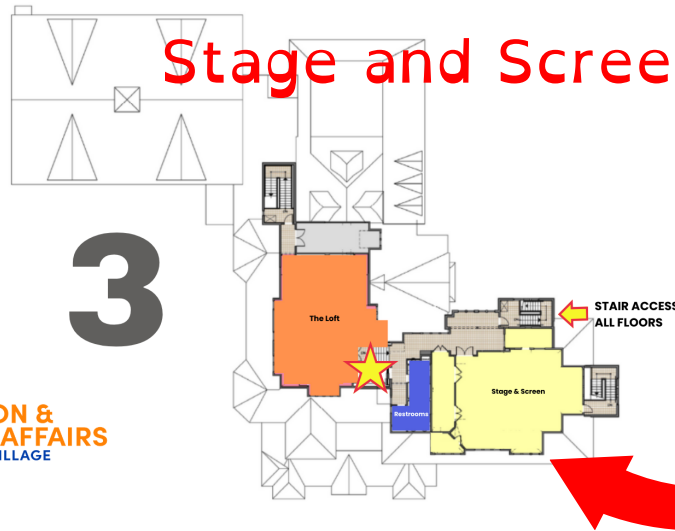
# 2



Expandable map available online at [www.togetherwebloom.org/SomaCelebratesNeurodiversity](http://www.togetherwebloom.org/SomaCelebratesNeurodiversity)

## Stage and Screen Room

# 3



PARKING LOT & TENNIS COURTS

The event begins at 7:00pm but the room will open at 6:30pm. Adults are welcome to bring their children if they would like to but the event is geared towards adults.

The event is free but I need to register online so the organizers know who is coming at <https://www.balancedkidsnj.com/fidgetsandfries>

The event is at The Baird in South Orange. There is a parking lot in front of the building.

Masks are encouraged, though not required there will be some available if you forget.

The building is physical accessible including ramps and elevators to all public spaces. More accessibility information is available online.

[www.togetherwebloom.org/SomaCelebratesNeurodiversity](http://www.togetherwebloom.org/SomaCelebratesNeurodiversity)



When the event begins, Tiffany will introduce herself and give a presentation to the audience. She will read from her children's book. Participants will then have opportunity to ask Tiffany questions if they want.

After she speaks, Tiffany will be available to sign books. If you want her to sign, participants should bring a copy of the book or preorder since there will not be books available for sale at the event.



“Celebrating neurodiversity” means that our community embraces differences of brains and bodies as part of what makes our community diverse and wonderful.

There are many different ways people listen and attend to a speaker like this. Some sit still to listen and others need to fidget or move around. Audience members can listen however works for them.

Participants can feel free to stand or move around in the back of the room as needed. There are fidget tools available to borrow during the event at the “Together We Bloom” table in the hallway outside of the event room.

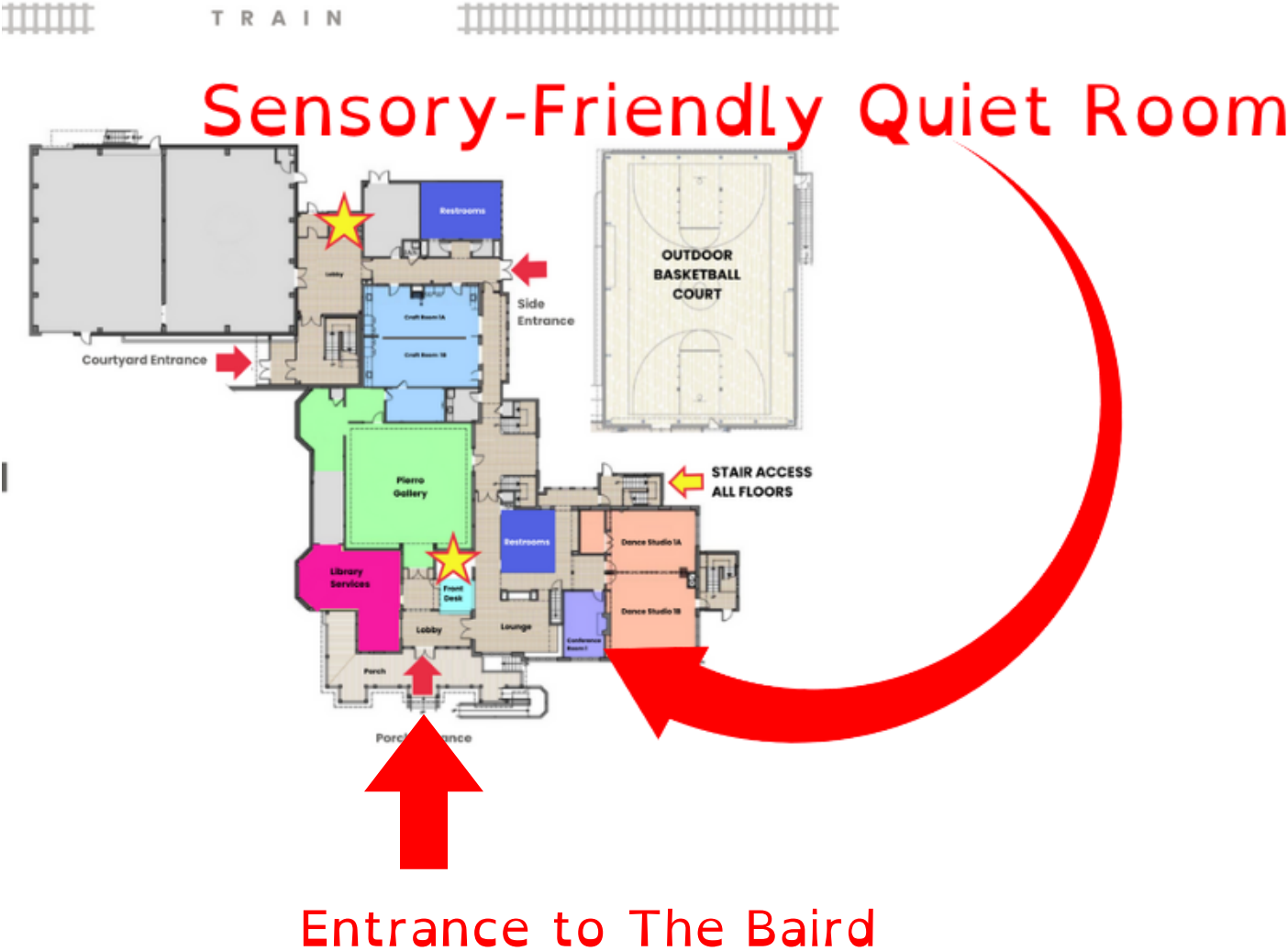




If the event room feels overwhelming or too loud, there is a sensory-friendly quiet space available on the first floor in the “conference room” behind the tables set up. There is soft lighting, chairs, and a quiet environment.

Bathrooms are on the same floor as the event, including an accessible stall.

Participants can stay until the end or leave whenever they need to.





This is information about Tiffany Hammond from her website, [www.fidgetsandfries.co](http://www.fidgetsandfries.co).

Tiffany is the voice behind the popular social media account Fidgets and Fries. She is an Autistic mother and advocate.

Tiffany is a storyteller, using her own personal experiences with Autism and parenting two teen boys with the same diagnosis to guide others on their journey.

Her activism is rooted in challenging the current perception of Autism as being a lifelong burden, cultivating a community that explores the concept of Intersectionality and Autism, and inspiring thought leaders through storytelling, education, and critical discourse. She has a Masters in Developmental Psychology from Liberty University.



Tiffany is an Autistic Speaker and Autistic Consultant who currently uses her lived experiences to inform her audiences of the issues that matter most to this community, with emphasis on the Black Autistic experience.

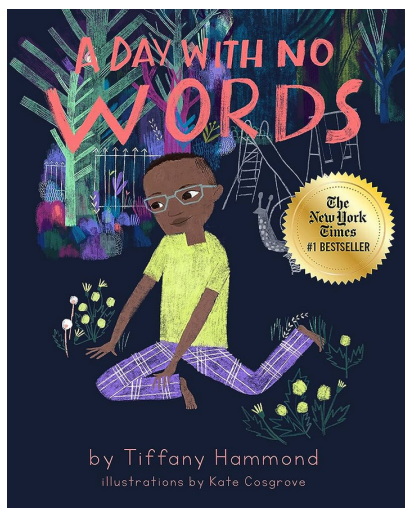
Tiffany's children's book is called *A Day with No Words*. Below is from the publisher's website:

"An instant #1 New York Times bestselling picture book and Dolly Gray Award winner! *A Day With No Words* invites readers into the life of an Autism Family who communicates just as the child does, without spoken language.

*A Day With No Words* is a colorful and engaging picture book for young readers shares what life can look like for families who use nonverbal communication, utilizing tools to embrace their unique method of "speaking."

The story highlights the bond between mother and child and follows them on a day where they use a tablet to communicate with others.

Written by an autistic mother of two autistic sons and the creator behind the popular @Fidgets.and.Fries social media platform and illustrated by Kate Cosgrove (IG @k8cosgrove), *A Day With No Words* successfully normalizes communication methods outside of verbal speech and provides representation of neurodiversity and autism in a way that affirms and celebrates."





A special thanks to South Orange Village Recreation and Cultural affairs, Nina Essel, Whitney Kidder, Balanced Kids, SEPAC SOMA, Community Coalition on Race, Defining Development, and Jespy House for partnering with Together We Bloom to increase disability inclusion for this community event.




We believe that our community will be richer and more just by embracing our neurodiversity, celebrating our difference, and prioritizing belonging and equity for individuals with disabilities.



To learn more about our values and our work in the community, please visit:  
[www.TogetherWeBloom.org](http://www.TogetherWeBloom.org)



Please stay in touch!

-  860-614-2835
-  182 Franklin Ave, Maplewood, NJ 07040
-  [Community@TogetherWeBloom.org](mailto:Community@TogetherWeBloom.org)

Together We Bloom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.



[www.togetherwebloom.org/somacelebratesneurodiversity](http://www.togetherwebloom.org/somacelebratesneurodiversity)