

# Port Moody Library Launches New Equipment for Special Needs Adults

By Barbara Buxton.

Developmentally challenged adults visiting the [Port Moody Public Library](#) now have a specially equipped workstation available for their use, thanks to funding from the 2008 *Links to Literacy* golf tournament.

The library has a group of developmentally challenged adults who enjoy being in the library, but who we felt were being underserved. Members of this group are regular library users, coming in several times a week to use our services. Some can read, while some need more image-based activities; some have physical disabilities and use various adaptive technologies. They enjoy music, movies, and computer games, all of which help to educate and to improve their literacy skills. Previously they found that only the children's computers had programs suitable for their skills and abilities. However the child-sized furnishings and décor were uncomfortable for adults, and we felt we needed to serve them better.

## The Planning Stage

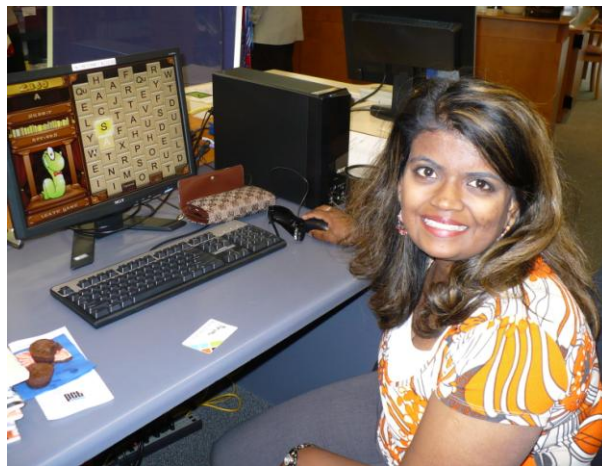
We began by consulting with the young adults and their caregivers from [Community Integrated Services Society](#). The goal was to provide a service that would help individuals with varying levels of developmental disabilities enjoy our resources independently. The programs we chose for the station were based on the suggestions from this user group. Considerable time was spent researching downloadable online games that would be suitable, and plans are in place to re-evaluate the programs after they have been in use for awhile.

## The Equipment

This station includes a CD player and DVD player which allow them to play library materials of their choice. The new computer was loaded with software selected to appeal to a wide range of literacy levels. Programs include [TumbleReadables](#), word games, classic cartoons, and other entertaining games that promote good hand-eye coordination.

The library was also able to buy a collection of high-interest, easy-to-read paperbacks, which we have shelved on a paperback rack in the adult area, where they can be accessed without any stigma attached.

The new station was launched on May 22, 2009, with many of the target group in attendance. They were delighted with the new equipment and were eager to try it out. The staff at Port Moody is also enjoying the opportunity to get to know some of these patrons better, as they come and ask for help in using the station.



Library patron, Rae Kesavan, enjoys a word game at the new computer station at Port Moody Public Library.

The next [Links to Literacy golf tournament](#) is being held on August 31, 2009 at Meadow Gardens golf course. This is an annual event that provides funds for many literacy related projects in the library.

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