

# Reflection

When I started building this site, I wanted it to actually matter to the community I picked, not just check boxes for the assignment. That's why I created Inclusive Acres Hub, a resource for neurodivergent youth to find events, activities, and safe spaces where they can connect with others. The idea came from seeing how hard it can be for kids and teens to feel included when programs aren't designed with them in mind. I wanted the site to make opportunities feel approachable and easy to find.

## Community Impact

The community need my site addresses is pretty straightforward: neurodivergent youth often don't have enough access to inclusive activities. I looked into this by reading about barriers they face and also by reflecting on my own experiences seeing how inclusive environments help build confidence. The goal was to build something that feels positive, welcoming, and useful.

## Technical Decisions

For interactivity, I added two features: a light/dark theme toggle and a "Clear My Data" button. The toggle makes the site more accessible since some people find darker screens easier to read, and it saves their choice in localStorage so it stays the same when they come back. The clear data button is about privacy—it lets users wipe out whatever is stored if they don't want it saved anymore. Both features are simple, but they actually make the site more user-friendly instead of just being there for the sake of coding practice.

## Data & Privacy

Speaking of privacy, all the data is stored locally on the user's own device. Nothing is sent anywhere else. I even wrote a short privacy note on the site so it's clear what's happening. Since the community I'm focusing on includes younger people and families, I thought it was really important to be transparent and keep things safe.

## Performance & Accessibility

I ran Lighthouse audits and used them to guide improvements to performance and accessibility. For example, I checked that the text had enough contrast, tested responsiveness across screen sizes, and made sure the layout was simple to follow. The site uses semantic HTML so screen readers can make sense of the structure. The navigation bar is consistent across pages, and the theme toggle makes it easier for people to adjust the design to what works for them.

## Challenges & Learning

One of the harder parts was figuring out how to balance coding features with what would actually help users. It was tempting to add things just to prove I could, but I tried to stick with features that felt meaningful. Learning to use localStorage was new for me, and I liked seeing how it could improve user experience without creating privacy risks. Responsiveness was also a challenge—I had to keep checking the site on different screens and tweaking the CSS until it

worked decently everywhere. I also asked a couple of friends and classmates to test the site, and their feedback on readability and navigation helped me make small adjustments that made the site easier to use. Overall, I definitely got better at writing clean, semantic HTML, playing with responsive CSS, and using JavaScript in practical ways.

### **Future Development**

If I had more time, I'd love to expand the site by pulling in external data, like using a calendar or weather API to make the events page more dynamic. I'd also add filtering for resources, so people could search by category or age group. Another big step would be getting actual feedback from neurodivergent youth and families to shape the next version of the site, because their voices would be the most important in making it useful. And if I kept working on accessibility, I'd test it with screen readers and improve keyboard navigation.

Overall, this project was a mix of coding practice and thinking about real people who might use the site. I'm proud that I was able to create something that's both technically functional and focused on inclusion. It made me realize how design choices aren't just about looks—they can make a big difference in whether someone feels welcome and supported.