Resource Reviews

Autism Spectrum Disorders through the Life Span
by Digby Tantam, 2012, 550 pages, $125.00 (hard), $49.95 (paper)

Available from:
Jessica Kingsley Publishers
400 Market St, Suite 400
Philadelphia, Pa 19106
Website: www.jkp.com

This book examines research on the assessment, diagnosis, intervention, and treatment of Autism Spectrum disorders throughout the lifespan. The sciences basic to ASD as well as the clinical aspects of ASD are addressed. Information and research is included on the neurological, genetic, developmental, social, emotional, and psychological aspects of the disorders and how they present from early infancy to adolescence and through adulthood. This book will be of use to professionals and parents working with people with ASD as well as to people with ASD who wish to gather more knowledge about the disorder.

A Best Practice Guide to Assessment and Intervention for Autism and Asperger Syndrome in Schools
by Lee A Wilkinson, 2010, 208 pages, $25.95 (paper).

Available from:
Jessica Kingsley Publisher
400 Market St, Suite 400
Philadelphia, Pa 19106
Website: www.jkp.com

This well organized and well written book, intended for the use of professionals in schools working with the Autism population, offers recent research on the assessment and intervention processes. Discussed in the book include: Best practice in screening; Best practice in assessment; Best practice for intervention and treatment; and best practice in special needs education. Emphasis is put on scientifically-based research while stressing that the individual child remains the focus of attention. The author also acknowledges the differing severity of traits along the Autism spectrum and emphasizes the importance of understanding how to best provide support in school for all affected children regardless of the severity of their displayed behaviors. The focus of this useful book is empirically-based and best practices, as opposed to speculation or subjective theories. It will appeal to educators as well as parents who want to become well-informed.
**Educating Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Making Schools Meaningful**
*Edited by Kenneth Poon, 2009, 212 pages, $32.50.*

Available from
Prentice Hall: Pearson Education
South Asia, 23/25 First Lok Yang Rd
Jurong, Singapore 629733
Website: [www.pearson-asia.com](http://www.pearson-asia.com)

Written by an American-educated author, and published in Singapore, the aims of this book are to empower professionals involved in the education of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder with the needed knowledge for fostering a successful school experience for these children. The book first addresses background knowledge for the understanding of ASD. Poon then discusses classroom and school support as well as specialized support such as counseling, psychiatric support, and helping gifted children with Autism. Finally, Poon concludes with stories providing the reader with varying personal and family perspectives on the experiences of the child with ASD in the school. In addition to being helpful for professionals working with the Autism Spectrum Disorder, the book also has the potential to be helpful for parents on their journey of advocacy.

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**No Fighting, No Biting, No Screaming: How to Make Behaving Positively Possible for People with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities**
*by Bo Hejlskov Elvén, 2010, 240 pages, $19.95 (paper)*

Available from:
Jessica Kingsley Publishers
400 Market St, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Website: [www.jkp.com](http://www.jkp.com)

This useful book for managing and adjusting difficult behaviors offers a fresh perspective on methods for working with people with Autism and other developmental disabilities. The book is intended for the use of parents and professionals working with this population at the childhood as well as adult level. The goal of the book is to empower those affected by the problematic behaviors that accompany with Autism as well as other disabilities by providing skills and methods to shape disruptive behaviors into more positive responses. Challenging behaviors are defined and conceptions as well as misconceptions are explored. Elvén puts forth the idea that “people who can behave will.” The use of adjusting demands put on those displaying negative behaviors is recommended, because often persons with disabilities are expected to act in ways they are not able to act. The author also addresses the effects of stress on the increase in chaos and how calming techniques can be taught. The use of methods addressed in this very readable book can positively affect the lives of those with Autism and other developmental disabilities.
The mission of The Future of Children is to provide useful social science research on youth and children in a way that is accessible to a broad audience. They compile research to inform others of which techniques are most effective for intervention with children and youth and present findings in non-technical and easy-to-read language. Their work is presented in their two journals and policy briefs produced each year. Of particular interest for this issue of VCPN is their journal published in the spring of 2012, titled “Children with Disabilities.” The topics presented in this publication include: The changing landscape of disability in childhood; Childhood health; The economic costs of childhood disability; Disability and the education system; Health insurance and children with disabilities; How quality improvement can enhance the lives of children with disabilities; Emerging technologies and their impact on disability; Prevention of disability in children; and elevating the role of environment.

Asperger Syndrome and Bullying: Strategies and Solutions
by Nick Dubin, 2007, 173 pages, $16.87 (paper)

This book presents a range of effective strategies that children, parents, teachers, and schools can use to help protect children with Asperger Syndrome from the harmful and long-lasting effects of bullying. The author, Nick Dubin, was diagnosed with Aspersers and describes the bullying he encountered throughout his life due to his condition. This book endeavors to show individuals who are being bullied that they are not alone and offers advice for adults to help them interact with their bullied child. Dubin’s multiple definitions of bullying allow the reader to understand how the wide range of situations that can result in harm to children. Not only does he discuss how to deal with a child who is being bullied, but he also outlines the major causes of bullying and how to deter a child from bullying. Bullying is a problem throughout the world and its frequency is greatly increased around children who display “different behavior”, otherwise known as Asperger Syndrome. This book can be useful for parents, educators, and service providers.
Autism - Asperger's and Sexuality: Puberty and Beyond
by Jerry and Mary Newport, 2002, 205 pages, $13.40 (paper)

Available from:
Future Horizons Inc.
721 W. Abram Street
Arlington, TX 76013
(800)–489–0727
Website: www.futurehorizons-autism.com

This co-authored book is written by Jerry and Mary Newport who were both diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. As a married couple that they provide a unique view on the disorder and its effects on relationships. They share their knowledge of the challenges of intimacy when one partner, or both, is diagnosed with Aspersers. Their main topics include: sensory issues for those with ASD; sexual development of people with ASD; vulnerability to rape, molestation, and abuse. They hope that people with ASD or those who know someone with ASD will use their insights to better understand relationship challenges.

Perfect Targets: Asperger Syndrome and Bullying—Practical Solutions for Surviving the Social World
by Rebekah Heinrichs, 2003, 204 pages, $18.30 (paper)

Available from:
Autism Asperger Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 23173
Shawnee Mission, KS 66283-0173
Website: www.aspberger.net

This helpful book provides guidelines for parents and teachers seeking to assist in need reducing vulnerability to bullying for children with ASD. This book offers many solutions and ideas such as: how to increase awareness; bullying prevention techniques; characteristics of children who bully and prevention methods.
The Autistic Spectrum: A Parents’ Guide to Understanding and Helping Your Child
by Lorna Wing, 2001, 240 pages, $14.95 (paper)

Available from:
Ulysses Press
P.O. Box 3440
Berkeley, CA 94703
Website: www.ulyssespress.com

This book was written by a mother of an autistic child who has since become a world-renowned expert on the autism spectrum. She describes how people diagnosed with ASD experience the world around them and why they become disturbed at simple changes in routine. Her planned routines and daily schedules provide a simple way to deal with unexpected problems. Some of the book’s major topics are: the diagnosis of autism; conditions associated with autism; the triad of impairments; improving communication; and teaching basic skills. The varied chapters and themes allow the reader to better grasp the challenges experienced by those with ASD. The book can appeal to both parents of a child with ASD and to educators and service providers.

The Everything Parent’s Guide to Children with Asperger’s Syndrome: Help, Hope, And Guidance
by William Stillman, 2005, 320 pages, $2.88 (paper)

Available from:
F+W Publications Company
57 Littlefield Street
Avon, MA 02322
Website: www.adamsmedia.com

This in-depth book provides advice and answers to help parents work with children who have Asperger’s Syndrome. It outlines challenges that many their children will face as they age and enter into new developmental phases. It highlights issues such as: understanding the results of the diagnosis; discovering the best options for education and learning; identifying triggers that lead to sensory overload; and recognizing symptoms early in order to prevent a “meltdown”. The book explains that a positive attitude and a strong bond are crucial to parents when dealing with their child. The communication and discipline techniques offered provide the reader with a multitude of activities for engagement with the child. The volume offers help and guidance to parents.
Victims with Disabilities: Collaborative, Multidisciplinary First Response
by U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, 2009, 70 pages

Available from:
U. S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531
Website: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov

This trainer’s guide is designed to demonstrate effective techniques for first responders called to help crime victims who have disabilities that affect the victim’s intellectual and communication abilities. The accompanying training DVD provides a specific set of guidelines for first responders (e.g., law enforcement officers, paramedics, victim advocates, forensic interviewers) who have been called to the scene of a crime in which the victim has a disability. It is designed to help these professionals improve their ability to work with individuals who present specific challenges to a successful first response.

Autism Spectrum Disorders Handbook
University of South Dakota, 2006, 93 pages

Available from:
Center for Disabilities
University of South Dakota
1400 W. 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
(800) 658-3080
Website: http://www.usd.edu/medical-school/center-for-disabilities/autism-spectrum-disorders-handbook.cfm

This book is designed as an informational resource for individuals working with those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Topics in the handbook include: autism and Aspergers, effective interventions, educational issues, and child care. The information provided reflects the most-up-to-date information available on Autism and Asperger’s disorders.
Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders—Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 14 Sites, United States

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008, 24 pages

Available from:
Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30333
(800) 232-4636
Website: http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/addm.html

This book provides accurate reporting of data in order to understand the prevalence of ASDs in the population and in helping direct research. Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a group of developmental disabilities characterized by impairments in social interaction and communication and by restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior. Symptoms typically are apparent before age 3 years. The complex nature of these disorders, coupled with a lack of biologic markers for diagnosis and changes in clinical definitions over time, creates challenges in monitoring the prevalence of ASDs.

Child Maltreatment 2011

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children’s Bureau, 2011, 251 pages

Available from:
Children’s Bureau
Administration on Children, Youth, and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW
Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20024
Website: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2011

This report presents national data about child abuse and neglect known to child protective service agencies in the United States during federal fiscal year 2011. Chapters cover reports, children, fatalities, perpetrators, services, and research on child maltreatment. States recognize and report four major types of maltreatment: neglect, physical, abuse, psychological maltreatment, and sexual abuse.
Impairing Education: Corporal Punishment of Students with Disabilities in US Public Schools
American Civil Liberties Union, 2009, 75 pages

Available from:
American Civil Liberties Union
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Phone: 212-549-2500
Email can be sent from: http://www.aclu.org/general-feedback
Website: http://www.aclu.org/human-rights/impairing-education-corporal-punishment-students-disabilities-us-public-schools

This article discusses the influence that corporal punishment in schools has on students with disabilities. It highlights the prevalence and severity of punishment administered to disabled. The report notes that corporal punishment can not only increase the troublesome behavior, but it can also make students distrust the school system. These negative effects can be life-changing for a student with disabilities because, without school success, it is much harder to acquire jobs and live a full life. The article discusses behaviors that can lead to punishment, and the parent’s inability to protect their own children. The report documents that the already destructive process of corporal punishment can be much more harmful when administered on children with disabilities.

Safeguarding Disabled Children in Residential Special Schools

Available from:
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Weston House, 42 Curtain Road
London EC2A 3NH
Phone: 0-207-825-2500
Fax: 0-207-825-2525
Email: help@nspcc.org.uk
Website: http://www.nspcc.org.uk/

This article examines child protection procedures and practices while offering suggestions and evaluations of current policies. The topics discussed in this article are as follows: school training programs; effective communication techniques; behavior management skills; and the overall awareness of child protection. The hands-on management and support that the article offers allows readers to understand what practices are currently in use and how they are implemented. Through interviewing, surveying, and observing, this article analyzes current practices and documents that pertain to the safeguarding of children with disabilities in special schools.
Unsafe in the Schoolhouse: Abuse of Children with Disabilities
The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc., 2009, 58 pages

Available from:
The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.
P.O. Box 6767
Towson, Maryland 21285

Email can be sent from: http://www.copaa.org/general/?type=CONTACT

This article examines unsafe school environments that some children with disabilities encounter. The abuse and bullying that occurs in the schoolhouse can have an extremely negative impact on their lives. The article discusses the rights of children with disabilities as well as how these rights can be violated in the classroom. The topics mentioned include: children being placed in restraints; use of seclusion rooms; and administration of painful, aversion interventions. The survey conducted in the article examines aversion interventions and the associated long-term pain and emotional harm.

Seclusion and Restraints: Selected Cases of Death and Abuse at Public and Private Schools and Treatment Centers

Available from:
United States Government Accountability Office
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20548
Phone: 202-512-3000
Email: contact@gao.gov
Website: http://www.gao.gov/assets/130/122526.pdf

This article from the United States Government Accountability Office examines the death and abuse associated with seclusion and restraints used in schools and treatment centers. The GAO found no federal laws that restricted the use of seclusion and restraints in public and private schools. The GAO found hundreds of cases of abuse and death between 1990 and 2005. They examined 10 cases that had had court involvement. The cases examine reveal that many of the deaths are considered to be accidents because there are no formal laws prohibiting seclusion and restraint.