# Autism Awareness

**Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library**  
A Selective Annotated Bibliography

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*Morty the Meerkat Has Autism* is a book about a meerkat that is on the autism spectrum disorder. Although it appears to be a children's book with exceptional, colorful pictures and easy to read vocabulary, it doubles as a teaching tool for adults to help them not only understand the autism spectrum better, but give them strategies to help the autistic individual be more successful in his or her environment.


When a new boy with autism named Louis joins their classroom, the children try to understand his world and to include him in theirs through imagination, kindness and a special game of soccer.


A girl tells what it is like living with her twin brother who has autism and sometimes finds it hard to communicate with words, but who, in most ways, is just like any other boy. Includes authors' note about autism.
Thompson, Mary. *Andy and His Yellow Frisbee*. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, 1996.

The new girl at school tries to befriend Andy, an autistic boy who spends every recess by himself, spinning a yellow frisbee under the watchful eye of his older sister.

**MIXED MEDIA**


Children describe what makes their autistic friend different but also explain the activities at which he excels, in a book with coloring pages and resources for parents and educators on a CD-ROM.

**FICTION**


Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world.


Fourteen-year-old Livvie Owen, who has autism, and her family have been forced to move frequently because of her outbursts, but when they face eviction again, Livvie is convinced she has a way to get back to a house where they were all happy, once.


Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.


Megan, a popular and outgoing fourth-grader, is sure that the "perfect" new girl dislikes her because she is deaf, but persistence and a joint science fair project help Megan see that the two girls have something in common after all.


Wounded in Iraq while his Army unit is on convoy and treated for many months for traumatic brain injury, the first person Ben remembers from his earlier life is his autistic brother.


Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mail room of a corporate law firm.

**NONFICTION**


Living with Autism features fictional narratives paired with firsthand advice from a medical expert to help preteens and teenagers feel prepared for dealing with autism during adolescence.


Presents information about Asperger's syndrome, including theories concerning its cause, its various characteristics, and management of the condition.

*Autism, The Invisible Cord* follows 14-year-old Jenny as she describes her day-to-day life with her younger autistic brother, Ezra. Ezra can be both her best friend as well as her biggest obstacle to living a normal life, and Jenny often finds herself stuck worrying about her younger brother. Through taking care of Ezra and a very special school project, Jenny ends up learning about her own character and strengths, and a way to shine despite everything else.


This book provides information about autism: the signs to watch for, different kinds and severities of autism, and various treatments.


In these moving essays, children tell their stories of what it is like to live with a sibling who has autism.


My friend Zack has a disability called autism. But that doesn't matter to us. We talk about airplanes, build models, and enjoy hanging out at each other's house. I'm glad Zack is my friend!


A kindergartner explains what it is like to have a young brother with Autism.


Teaches diversity and tolerance to young readers, and helps them understand and appreciate those children who have health differences. Colorful photos show kids with disabilities enjoying activities with their peers.
**BIOGRAPHY**


An authorized portrait about Grandin's life with autism and her groundbreaking work as a scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities describes how she overcame key disabilities through education and the support of her mother.


A journey into one of the most fascinating minds alive today--guided by its owner. Daniel Tammet sees numbers as shapes, colors, and textures, and he can perform extraordinary calculations in his head. He can learn new languages from scratch, in a week. He has savant syndrome, a rare condition that gives him almost unimaginable mental powers. But in one crucial way Daniel is not at all like the Rain Man: he is virtually unique among autistic people in that he is capable of living an independent life. He is even able to explain what is happening inside his head. Starting from early childhood, when he was incapable of making friends and prone to tantrums, to young adulthood, when he learned how to control himself and to live independently, fell in love, experienced a religious conversion to Christianity, and most recently, emerged as a celebrity.

**PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION**


A manual for elementary school teachers covering the wide variety of behavioral and cognitive issues that may arise in their classrooms. Gives definitions and descriptions of possible underlying problems or disorders that may prompt inappropriate behavior or disrupt a child's learning, and appropriate intervention points.


This resource includes definitions and characteristics of 16 challenges students may face, including autism, dyslexia, emotional disorders, and being gifted and
talented. Important issues such as privacy and eligibility are discussed, and information on Individualized Education Programs (IEPS) are covered.


An award-winning educator offers secondary practical strategies for teaching adolescents with autism. Included are ways to handle behavior challenges, implement academic interventions, and differentiate instruction.


Early Start for Young Children with Autism/PDD provides teachers, parents, therapists, and caregivers with intervention strategies for young children with autism or another pervasive developmental disorder. This product focuses specifically on young children ages 2 through 5 and meets the recommendations of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Mahoney, Gerald. *Autism and Developmental Delays in Young Children: The Responsive Teaching Curriculum for Parents and Professionals*. Austin, TX: Pro-Ed, 2007. 371.94 M2793A

Responsive Teaching is an evidence-based child development curriculum for children with Autism and Developmental Delays who are younger than six. This Program Works! After 12 months of Responsive Teaching intervention children showed: 60% increase in rate of cognitive development 125% increase in expressive language development 150% increase in receptive language growth Even children with severe social-emotional problems made dramatic improvements in their social emotional functioning.


A straightforward, easy-to-understand guide to working with children who have autism. It explains the major characteristics associated with autism and helps teachers understand the ways children with autism relate to the world. Each chapter offers specific strategies for teachers to use, including setting up a proactive preschool environment, helping children learn life skills, managing behavior, helping children with autism communicate, encouraging children with autism to play, helping them to get along with others, and working with families.

As a teacher, Jim Yerman has "lived with autism" for over thirty years. In many ways, his students have become part of his family. And, as with a family, he has learned to laugh and find humor in the absurdity of everyday situations, for they certainly exist! This book chronicles some of those situations. Most of them are humorous, some are sad, and a few are downright surreal. But they are all real, refreshing, and honest experiences about autism.


The Identiplay intervention helps children on the autistic spectrum, and those with specific communication disorders, learn to play. Through the use of play scripts the approach promotes the development of social skills, understanding, imagination and exploration. By learning these skills the young person can enjoy reciprocal play with an adult or peer. Supported by case studies the theory behind the approach is fully outlined and scripts are provided for instant use in a number of settings.