



Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter | April 2021

Happy World Autism Month



Expand Your World



I am a planner. I have prepared for life - according to my parents and loved ones since I was 3 years old. Always a plan, a contingency plan a

How can you evaluate whether your child with ASD will have the capacity to drive, to vote, to make medical decisions, to enter into contractual agreements, to marry or to merely travel without some level of support? The answer is you don't when they are so young, and you re-evaluate often during their primary and secondary years as they grow.


What I found during my planning is that you cannot finalize all your plans for your child, but you can create a roadmap or care plan for

backup plan, etc. As you grow older you realize life does not work that way. You may have good intentions, but life has a way of testing them and rearranging them for you.


I recently did a program in my professional capacity on guardianship. It was a three-part series on the role of guardianships in all capacities. The third series was dedicated to minor guardianships- and- the program OPENED my eyes to the realization that you cannot plan every aspect of a person's life. Seems like a simple lesson, but for me it was not.

your loved one. The goal is to expand their world and yours and hopefully leave room for the unexpected joys of life.

It takes time to discover what you want out of life, and it will take time to work with your loved ones to create a roadmap that endures and expands with them on their journey through life.



Care plans should be rooted in reality but open to creativity.



Guardian Advocacy by Erica K. Smith, Esq.

Reach One Teach One



You will often hear the repeated phrase that every time you have met one person with autism you have only met one person. It is true! The term spectrum means there are a range of characteristics, traits, mannerisms, sensory input, and communication skills that are varying. If you think about it - it is truly no different than all of mankind.

While we do share some traits -when you have met one person you have met a unique individual with a particular specialized DNA. Everyone has different capabilities. Some are more gifted than others or have a particular talent or skill set. It is no different for those with ASD.

The difference -real talk now -is tolerance for how we accept, interact, or

perceive persons on the spectrum. We often do not see how gifted or talented they are because we have not expanded our circle of knowledge and understanding of how they SEE and PROCESS the world.

The example I usually give is the story of the purple tree. For years I walked past a special tree and never bothered to look up at it. Every day- I am embarrassed to say I walked past this beautiful tree and paid it no mind. One day I took my daughter to walk our dog and she was memorized by this tree. She wouldn't move and I became quite impatient and curt. I literally remembering saying in firm words that it was time to go, and she was messing up my walk and what was the holdup. My daughter said, "have you ever seen such a spectacular purple tree?" I stopped in my tracks to inform her there was no such thing and while I protested, she urged me just to look up.

I was truly ashamed. I did not remember ever seeing that tree and here it was just as she said- spectacular.

Persons with ASD are truly spectacular. If you look deeper, you will be grateful you took the time to see the world through their lenses. Please see the book links below on Autism from varying perspectives. It will help you Reach someone and teach them that the ASD world isn't so different.

Nature of Autism Book List

[Beyond The Wall by Stephen M. Shore](#) Author Stephen Shore was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at a young age. Read his inspiring story of personal courage and loving support from his family as he gives readers an "inside" look at life's journey through the eyes of someone on the autism spectrum.

[Rules by Cynthia Lord](#) [Rules](#) is an award-winning story of a 12-year-old girl named Catherine whose younger brother David has autism. Lord's story was a hit with Carly, the older sister of Easter Seals' 2008 Child Representative Scottie Gaither. It focuses on the balance between caring for a sibling you love during a time when you also seek the acceptance of others.

[Thinking in Pictures by Temple Grandin](#) (Or any other book by Grandin) Read Temple Grandin's journey of her struggles growing up with autism through self-discovery that leads to eventual professional success as a professor of animal science. Grandin's book offers great insight into how an individual with autism understands spoken and written words in terms of visual pictures.

[Unstrange Minds by Roy Richard Grinker](#) The writer, whose daughter has autism, skillfully interweaves the story of his family's journey through autism with comparisons of autism awareness, treatments, and the struggles families face in other countries around the world.

[I am in Here The Journey of a Child with Autism Who Cannot Speak but Finds her Voice](#) by Elizabeth Bonker and Virginia Breen

[The Secret Life of a Black Aspie by Anand Prahlad](#) – “Rooted in black folklore and cultural ambience, and offering new perspectives on autism and more, The Secret Life of a Black Aspie will inspire and delight readers and deepen our understanding of the marginal spaces of human existence.”

Additional Selections from Unlocking Autism:

Books Written by People With Autism Autism and Sensing

[The Unlost Instinct, Donna Williams, Jessica Kingsley Publications.](#)

[Autism: An Inside-Out Approach, Donna Williams, Jessica Kingsley Publications, 1996.](#)

[Emergence: Labeled Autistic, Temple Grandin, Arena Press, 1986.](#)

[Nobody Nowhere, Donna Williams, Times Books, 1992.](#)

[Somebody Somewhere, Donna Williams, Times Books, 1994.](#)

[Soon Will Come the Light, Thomas A. McKean, Future Education, Inc., 1994.](#)

[My Adventures with Asperger's and My Advice for Fellow Aspergians, Misfits, Families, and Teachers, John Elder Robison, Crown Publishing, 2011.](#)

[Life, Animated by Ron Suskind](#)

[The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism - translated from Japanese. Suitable for parents, too.](#)



[Gavin Kelley](#)



[Celebrate this young man's accomplishments as we end Autism Awareness Month!](#)

[In case you missed it ... March Newsletter](#)

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