

A Parent's Guide to High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder

How to Meet the Challenges and Help Your Child Thrive

Second Edition

By Sally Ozonoff, Geraldine Dawson and James C. McPartland

"I really like how this book emphasises building on the talents and strengths of a person with high-functioning autism. It contains many useful case histories and combines both scientific and practical information for parents, teachers, and other professionals." – **Temple Grandin, PhD, author of *Thinking in Pictures***

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder are diagnosed earlier and more accurately today than ever before. Some "high-functioning" children stand out for their precocious intelligence and language abilities - yet they still struggle with profound social difficulties. In the past, they would have been diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome. But since Asperger's was recently eliminated from the DSM-5, they are now lumped together under the umbrella of ASD.

This shift in diagnosis has left parents of high-functioning children frustrated, confused, and overwhelmed. The range of spectrum disorders is vast, and symptoms vary widely from case to case. Who can they turn to with questions about treatment options, educational placements, and help with building critical social skills?

Since the publication of their original book in 2002, child psychologists and autism experts Sally Ozonoff (of UC Davis's MIND Institute), Geraldine Dawson (Director of the Duke Centre for Autism Diagnosis and Treatment), and James McPartland (of Yale's Child Study Centre) have given parents the facts they need about ASD. Now, with [*A Parent's Guide to High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder, Second Edition*](#) (Guilford Press, January 2015, £12.99) they have fully revised and updated their bestselling tome to reflect the new changes in diagnosis, as well as all the latest research and newly developed interventions.

With compassion and authority, Drs Ozonoff, Dawson, and McPartland describe ways to work with high-functioning children's unique impairments and capabilities so they can grow into happy, self-sufficient adults. Parents learn practical strategies for helping their son or daughter relate more comfortably to peers, learn the rules of appropriate behaviour, and succeed in school - and beyond. "Our goal in this book is to help you give your child the best chance possible for a full and happy life," they write. "As your understanding of the strengths associated with ASD grows, so will your ability to conquer its challenges. And as you overcome the difficulties that your child's disorder presents, you will be more able to celebrate the gifts and joys that your unique son or daughter brings to your life."

Author Bio:

Sally Ozonoff, PhD, is Endowed Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Psychiatry and the MIND Institute - a national centre for the study and treatment of ASD - at the University of California. Dr Ozonoff is widely known for her research and teaching in the areas of diagnosis and assessment of ASD, and has an active clinical practice.

Geraldine Dawson, PhD, is Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Duke Centre for Autism Diagnosis and Treatment at Duke University. She served as Founding Director of the University of Washington Autism Centre. An internationally recognised autism expert with a focus on early detection, intervention, and brain plasticity in autism, Dr Dawson is a passionate advocate for families. She is co-author of *An Early Start for Your Child with Autism*.

James C. McPartland, PhD, is Assistant Professor at the Yale Child Study Centre and Director of the Yale Developmental Disabilities Clinic. He has worked with children with ASD and their families for more than 15 years. Dr McPartland's award-winning research focuses on brain processes in ASD, with the goal of developing new approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

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