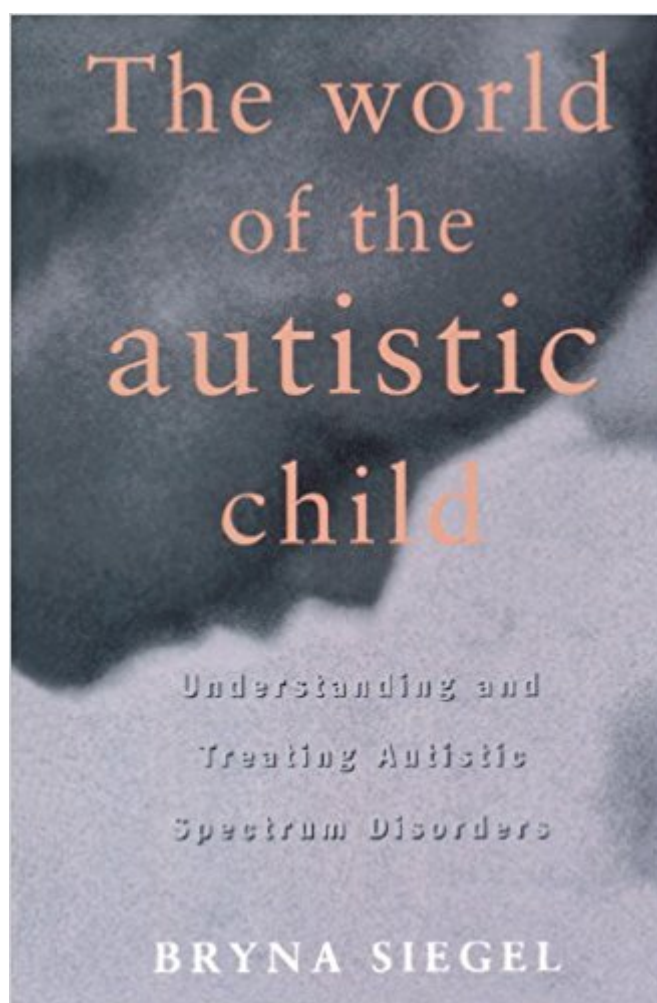


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# The World Of The Autistic Child : Understanding And Treating Autistic Spectrum Disorders



## **Synopsis**

For thousands of loving and concerned parents of autistic children, the suspicion that something may be wrong comes long before the clinical diagnosis of autism, PDD (pervasive developmental disorder), or Asperger's syndrome. When rounds of testing and consultations confirm parents' worst fears, their emotional turmoil is matched by an overriding practical concern: What do we do next? *The World of the Autistic Child* is by far the most complete and comprehensive book ever written for the parents of autistic children, and for the teachers, child specialists, and other professionals that care for them. Written by Dr. Bryna Siegel, a developmental psychologist and director of a large university clinic for autistic children, it provides help and hope not only for the children, but for their families--the parents, grandparents, siblings, and other caregivers who must come to grips with their own grief and confusion following a diagnosis of autism or other related disorder. Dr. Siegel believes that parents' best defense is to acquire, as early as possible, the knowledge and the parenting skills they will need to work with professionals to help their child fulfill his or her potential. This book, therefore, is about understanding the diagnosis of autism, the available treatments, and how to decide what is best for a particular child with autism or PDD. Straightforward and sympathetic, Dr. Siegel guides readers through the thicket of symptoms and labels, explaining the crucial importance of intensive early education, and how to find the resources and help that are available. Behavior modification, the development of daily living skills, guidelines for selecting and designing schooling, mainstreaming, the role for traditional academics in educating higher functioning children and young people, building effective parent-teacher relationships, psychoactive medications, and dealing with the possibility of residential placement are all covered. Dr. Siegel teaches parents and professionals to use their own common sense and personal observations in evaluating the many highly publicized but unorthodox and often untested treatments for autism, including the much-touted facilitated communication (F/C), holding therapy, auditory training, "Options" therapy, allergy treatments, and special diets. Pulling together a wealth of long-needed information on the latest educational and medical advances, *The World of the Autistic Child* is a superb guide and resource that no one who cares about autistic or developmentally disabled young people will want to be without.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

"Bryna Siegel has succeeded admirably in the difficult task of writing a book for parents of children with autistic conditions. Her style is clear and easy to understand even when she discusses complicated issues. She has empathy for the emotional and practical stresses and strains that are an inevitable part of caring for an autistic child. She discusses treatments and outcomes with clear-sighted honesty. This is a book that parents and professionals in the field will find invaluable."--Lorna Wing, M.D., Consultant Psychiatrist, The Centre for Social and Communication Disorders  
"In this volume, Dr. Siegel combines equal measures of academic expertise, common sense, and empathy for her patients and their families. The result is an authoritative and easily readable book for students, professionals of all disciplines, and parents who are struggling to understand and help those with autism. I recommend Dr. Siegel's book to every student, fellow professional, and family without the slightest hesitation or qualification."--Edward R. Ritvo, M.D., UCLA School of Medicine  
"Very well done in its scope and comprehensive. It covers a wide range of treatments and provides current perspective on each. Treatment of diagnosis is thorough. This is an excellent choice for the professional bookcase--be they teacher, therapist, parent or doctor."--Gerald Budzynski, York College of Pennsylvania  
Noted in [Canadian Child Psychiatry Review](#)

Dr. Bryna Siegel has directed the Pervasive Developmental Disorders Clinic and Laboratory at Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute at the University of California, San Francisco for the past six years, and earlier, was one of the founders of the Autism Clinic at Stanford University. She is the author of *The Working Parents Guide to Child Care*, *What About Me? Growing Up with a Developmentally Disabled Sibling*, and numerous professional publications.

While this is a very helpful book, a) the print is a little small for easy reading, and b) it was not 100% what I was expecting. That is more my fault than the book's, however. I did not research all of the references to it thoroughly enough to understand that it is more clinical than a parent sort of book.

This book had good descriptions of some of the various autistic symptoms ... hand flapping, head banging, echolalia, etc -- there's little real insight into why they happen, but good descriptions, which was helpful to me. I was annoyed at the constant distinctions drawn between "autism" and "PDD," when even the author admits that diagnoses aren't consistent enough for these labels to have a constant meaning. The author devotes a chapter to various drug therapies, but has very little information (and a negative attitude) about biological therapies such as diet & yeast control -- probably partly because this book was written in 1996, which is ages ago, relatively speaking. A decent book to add to your collection, but don't let this be the only one you read.

Out dated but still hold up with the times.

Anyone who has a child, or know of something with Autism NEED THIS BOOK! Very, Very, a Must Read. Bought this book for my Grand-Daughter, who has a two-year old son with Autism. This book is Making its rounds to everyone in our family - it started with me, then my daughter and now my Grand-Daughter.

Outstanding first stop for anyone who suspects his or her child has autism or PDD, or who has just received a diagnosis. Helps you understand the range of different profiles children on this spectrum have and their differences from typically developing children. Balanced discussion of the multiple issues any parent needs to consider. If you haven't already, you will soon discover that the treatment community is highly polarized and everyone has a bias. You need information to help you sort out what you read and hear elsewhere. This book delivers.

This should be a first book for parents coming to terms with and understanding autism: it is readable, informative and even comforting. I too bought a copy for my son's early intervention program teachers.

When I read *The World of the Autistic Child* two years ago, I found myself discouraged and depressed. I did learn the value of early intervention, but nothing about the enormous amount of

biochemical research being done to discover the cause and find the means to cure this disorder. This book is hopelessly out-of-date now with its exclusive focus on the behavioral approach. It needs to be revised and expanded with the assistance of knowledgeable bio-scientists currently researching the field, hopefully before many more newly diagnosed families get the inappropriate pessimism this book presents about autism spectrum disorder.

As someone who has worked with Autistic children and adults for several years and as a member of the spectrum myself, I cannot endorse, recommend, or even suggest in any way that anyone buy Dr. Seigel's books or follow her unhealthy and bigoted diatribes. You don't want to follow a therapist who "undiagnoses" 9 out of every 10 Autistic children, who calls Asperger's a joke, and claims that anyone who is friendly, intelligent, or in any way capable is not Autistic when 2/3rds of all Autistic children and adults are high-functioning or Asperger's and are capable--with the right therapy and right therapists--of having careers, spouses, and "normal" lives. Her deplorable attitude with regards to who she calls "geeks" is that they should not breed. Sounds more like a bigot interested in eugenics than actual treatment to me.

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