

Learning Resources

Autism

The Doctor Is In Series

Recognized by the American Medical Writers Association with an Excellence in Medical Communications Award

The bizarre world of autism is shown through the experiences of a 44-year-old woman who grew up autistic. Temple Grandin now has a Ph.D., and is trying to tell the world what it was like growing up not being able to speak and pick up subtleties of communication.

Children who in the past were diagnosed as mentally retarded are now demonstrating that they can read, write and understand, given the right tools. Young men who were labeled unteachable are now working and communicating their thoughts.

Adult, Professional
28 minutes, order 2-3121-IN

Autism: A World Apart

Autism's cause is unknown. There is no cure, and it strikes each victim differently. In this candid new documentary, three families show us what the textbooks and studies cannot...what it is like to live with autism day after day, to love and raise a child who is often withdrawn and violent, and unable to make personal connection with his family.

Post Secondary - Introductory,
Ages 15 to 18, Adult, Professional
29 minutes, order 9-7055-IN

A selection of videos for families and professional staff of autistic children

Breakthroughs: How To Reach Students With Autism

"Excellent! Ms. Sewell is practicing good theory .. we're shown the full blown behaviour of the child, and how she immediately deals with each behaviour. ... This very neat film will serve as a valuable discussion for teachers." Professor Paul McDonnell, Dept of Psychology, University of New Brunswick.

Featuring Karen Sewell, *Autism Society of America's "Teacher of the Year"*.

Children with autism can be among the most challenging for any teacher or parent to work with. In this new video, Karen Sewell demonstrates a hands-on approach to reaching and teaching students with autism.

Following Sewell's work with four-year-old Jesse over the course of four months, the video demonstrates the successful techniques she has refined in her 20 years of special education instruction. Her rigorous but compassionate program, which stresses early intervention, high expectations, tough love, physical prompting, modeling, and attending to

task, yields significant progress and will be an inspiring model for teachers, students and parents alike.

Close captioned.

Adult
25 minutes, order 8-2004-IN

Come Back Jack

This video chronicles the ups and downs of the Parish family as they learn their 2 year old son, Jack, has autism. This is their therapeutic journey which led them to a Language and Cognitive Development Center.

There with the guidance of a team of special educators, Jack begins to emerge from his internal chaos into a loving, interactive relationship with his family and the world around him.

Adult
55 minutes, order 8-2021-IN

Refrigerator Mothers

From the 1950s through the early 1970s, the medical establishment thought it had found the cause of autism: poor mothering. Dr. Bruno Bettelheim presumed that the bizarre behaviours of autistic children – rigid rituals, difficulty with speech, extreme self-isolation – stemmed from their mothers'

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emotional frigidity. We now know that autism is a brain disorder, not the result of poor parenting. But for a whole generation of women, branded as cold "refrigerator mothers", the damage had been done.

What happened to these mothers offers powerful lessons for all of us. We are a society inspired by the frenetic search for answers to the mystery of human behaviour. But our search must be tempered by humility and truth or we risk hurting the people we are supposed to help.

Adult, Professional
53 minutes, order 9-7358-IN



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The Spectrum Of Autism

Autism is the third most common developmental disability, yet its cause is not fully understood and it is still one of the more mysterious and difficult disorders to diagnose and treat.

Share in the experiences of several families who have struggled to love and care for children who fall at various points on the spectrum of autism. Learn about the symptoms which first alerted them to the possibility of a developmental disorder in their child, and the challenges they faced in obtaining an accurate diagnosis, then in securing proper treatment and an educational setting appropriate to their child's needs.

Hear of the perspectives of clinicians and educators who explain the difficulties they face in recognizing autism, and point to some of the common developmental signs which may be early signals of the disorder.

The overriding message of this production is that caring and aware parents and professionals can be extraordinarily effective in enabling children with autism to participate in the world around them.

Professional, Adult
34 minutes, order 9-7361-IN

Straight Talk About Autism: Adolescent Issues

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the diagnoses of students with autism. While they often have great potential, school can present an overwhelming challenge to them and their parents, not to mention staff. And with inclusion, everyone gets involved. Yet many of us remain unfamiliar with the particulars of autism.

This program features interviews with adolescents, their parents and professionals.

Ages 12-18, Adult
41 minutes, order 8-2005-IN

Straight Talk About Autism: Childhood Issues

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the diagnoses of children with autism. While they often have great potential, school can present an overwhelming challenge to them and their parents, not to mention staff. And with inclusion, everyone gets involved. Yet many of us remain unfamiliar with the particulars of autism.

Features discussions from parents of young children with autism. A realistic look at their daily lives, struggles and joys.

Adult
38 minutes, order 8-2006-IN

Talk To Me: Children With Autism

Public school systems are experiencing a rapid rise in the number of children diagnosed with autism, in both mainstream and special classrooms. Studies have indicated that these increases are *not* related merely to changes in diagnostic criteria.

Narrated by a child, this engaging documentary takes viewers into their lives at home and school, and profiles the efforts of their parents and teachers to help them achieve their potential.

Adult, Professional
28 minutes, order 9-7378-IN

When Parents Can't Fix It

Living With A Child's Disability

An intimate look at the lives of five families who are raising children with disabilities—the problems they face, how they have learned to cope and the rewards and stresses of adapting to their child's condition.

Matt is a vibrant sixteen-year-old who has muscular dystrophy. He and his mother discuss what it has been like to adjust to his progressive paralysis and to face life with a terminal illness.

Nathan is entering adulthood with cerebral palsy and his parents feel it is time for him to live outside the home.

Blayre is a six-year-old with multiple disabilities, growing up in a close-knit African American family.

Eli is 6 years old, has autism, a variety of medical problems and self-injurious behaviours requiring constant vigilance to keep him safe.

Red Fawn, a Native American teen whose violent outbursts related to fetal alcohol effect strain her family and bring her into frequent contact with the justice system.

Offers a realistic look at different family strengths and coping styles and highlights the ways society can help meet the needs of families with disabled children.

Adult
58 minutes, order 9-7327-IN

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