

# Children's Literature About Autism

## Picture Books – Characters Who Have Autism

Altman, Alexandra Jessup. (2008). *Waiting for Benjamin*. Albert Whitman. (Grades Pre-3). **Alexander works out the feelings he has for his brother with autism.**

Bishop, Beverly. (2003). *My Friend with Autism*. Future Horizons. (Grades Pre-3). **A coloring book that explains autism and how children with autism can act differently.**

Coe, Julie L. (2009). *The Friendship Puzzle: Helping Students Learn about Accepting and Including Kids with Autism*. Larstan Publishing. (Grades 2-5). **As Mackenzie sets out to learn how to befriend a new student with autism, she discovers that friendships come in many different forms. Activity guide included.**

Day, Alexandra. (2004). *The Flight of a Dove*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. (Grades 1-5). **A young girl with autism connects with animals.**

Decker, S. Charles. (2009). *Zack and the Prairie Dog*. Tate Publishing. (Grades K-3). **Follow the adventures of Zack, a prairie dog with autism, and Cody, a dachshund, in this heart-warming tale about autism awareness, acceptance and the power of friendship.**

Edwards, Becky. (1999). *My Brother Sammy*. Millbrook Pr. Trade. (Grades K-2). **When the narrator tries doing and seeing things they way his brother with autism does, a special relationship develops between them.**

Ely, Lesley. (2004). *Looking After Louis*. Albert Whitman & Company. (Grades Pre-3). **Kids learn to include a boy with autism in their class. The word autism is not used.**

Ellis, Marvie. (2005). *Keisha's Doors: An Autism Story*. Speech Kids Texas Press, Inc. (Grades Pre-3). **A girl learns to understand her younger sister, who is diagnosed with autism. Spanish and English.**

Ellis, Marvie. (2005). *Tacos Anyone? An Autism Story*. Speech Kids Texas Press, Inc. (Grades Pre-3). **With help from a therapist, Michael learns to play with his younger brother who has autism. Spanish and English.**

Fox Luchsinger, Debra. (2007). *Playing by the Rules: A Story About Autism*. Woodbine House. (Grades K-3). **Jody must tolerate her brother with autism – but also help others understand him – while playing a game.**

Gavnor, Kate. (2009). *A Friend Like Simon*. Special Stories Publishing. (Grades Pre-3). **Matthew is initially unsure about a new boy at school with autism, but they eventually become friends.**

Katz, I., Ritvo, E., & Borowitz, F. (Illust.). (1993). *Joey and Sam*. West Hills, CA: Real Life Storybooks. (Grades Pre-3). **Although it is sometimes hard to have a younger brother like Sam who has autism, Joey is proud when Sam's special class performs at a school assembly.**

Lears, Laurie. (1998). *Ian's Walk*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 63 (Grades Pre-3). **Julie tells about an outing to the park with her older sister and younger brother, who has autism. As they walk through town, she describes the things that Ian does and the sensations he experiences that are different from what most people do and feel.**

LePage, Katherine. (2007). ***My Special Friend Joey and Me: A Child's Eye View of Autism***. AuthorHouse. (Grades K-3). **A boy and his classmate with autism become and remain friends throughout their elementary school years.**

Lowell, Jamie and Tara Tuchell. (2005). ***My Best Friend Will***. Autism Asperger Publishing Co. (Grades K-5). **In this book of black and white photographs, enter Willie's world through Jamie's eyes as it unfolds at school, at home, and at play.**

Messner, A.W. (1999). ***Captain Tommy***. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons. (Grades Pre-3). **This book illustrates the way one young boy, reluctantly at first, but with increased interest, interacts with a boy who has autism. The word autism is not used.**

Murrell, Diane. (2001). ***Tobin Learns to Make Friends***. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons. (Grades Pre-2). **Tobin the train, who has characteristics on the autism spectrum, learns social rules, such as "take turns" and "don't interrupt," so that he can make friends. The word autism is not used.**

Murrell, Diane. (2007). ***Friends Learn About Tobin***. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons. (Grades Pre-2). **Follow-up to *Tobin Learns to Make Friends*, with emphasis on Tobin's peers learning to understand his differences. The word autism is not used.**

Thompson, M. (1996). ***Andy and his Yellow Frisbee***. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House. (Grades Pre-3). **Andy displays a fascination for objects in motion. Rosie, the watchful and protective sister supplies background information about Andy and autism, as well as a sibling's perspective.**

Twatchman-Cullen, Diane. (1998). ***Trevor, Trevor***. Cromwell, CT: Starfish Press. (Grades 1-3). **A class learns to appreciate the strengths of Trevor, a classmate with autism, when he participates in a puzzle competition. The word autism is not used.**

Shally, Celeste. (2009). ***Bully Blockers: Standing up for Classmates with Autism***. Awaken Specialty Press. (Grades K-3). **A boy witnesses a classmate with autism being bullied and how decides to get involved.**

Shally, Celeste. (2007). ***Since We're Friends: An Autism Picture Book***. Awaken Specialty Press. (Grades Pre-2). **This story of a friendship between two boys - one has autism and one who does not - provides practical examples of how to make such a friendship work.**

Van Niekerk, Clarabelle. (2007). ***Understanding Sam and Asperger Syndrome***. Skeezeel Press. (Grade Pre-2). **Firsthand view of the life of an undiagnosed child with characteristics of this disorder. Includes 10 helpful tips, showing kids how to respect and accept differences as well as to interact with a classmate with Asperger Syndrome.**

Wong, Adonya. (2009). ***In My Mind***. Tate Publishing. (Grades K-5). **From exciting adventures to silly games and conversations with friends, look closely and see how a child with autism sees the world and how the world sees him.**

### **Picture Books – Sensory Issues**

Kranowitz, Carol Stock. (2008). *The Goodenoughs Get in Sync: An Introduction to Sensory Processing Disorder*. Sensory Resources. (Grades 3-8). **This delightfully illustrated "chapter book," tells the tale of five family members (each with a different sensory processing challenge).**

Renke, L. (2005). *I Like Birthdays . . . It's the Parties I'm Not Sure About*. Las Vegas, NV: Sensory Resources. (Grades Pre-2). **From the child's point of view, describes what birthday parties are like for kids with sensory processing challenges.**

Renna, Diane M. (2007) *Meghan's World: The Story of One Girl's Triumph Over Sensory Processing Disorder*. Indigo Impressions. (Grades 2-5).

Roth-Fisch, Marla. (2009). *Sensitive Sam*. Future Horizons. (Grades Pre-2). **A whimsical but authentic book about sensory processing disorder, told in rhymed couplets.**

Simmons, Karen. (1996). *Little Rainman*. Future Horizons. (Grades K-3). **Experience the sensory world from the point of view of a child with autism.**

Veenendall, Jennifer. (2008). *Arnie and His School Tools: Simple Sensory Solutions that Build Success*. Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Co. (Grades K-4). **Arnie uses tools at school that help him regulate his body and be able to learn.**

Veenendall, Jennifer. (2009). *Why Does Izzy Cover Her Ears? Dealing with Sensory Overload*. Autism Asperger Publishing. (Grades Pre-3). **Meet Izzy, a feisty first grader, whose behavior is often misunderstood as she tries to cope with sensory overload in her new surroundings.**

## **Chapter Books – Characters Who Have Autism**

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. (2009). *Anything But Typical*. Simon and Schuster. (Grade 4-8). **Beautifully written in the voice of Jason, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader with high-functioning autism, who relates his experiences and thoughts better in writing than he does when interacting face to face with "neurotypicals."**

Burns, Laura J., and Melinda Metz. (2005). *A Wright and Wong Mystery: The Case of the Prank that Stank*. (Grades 4-8). New York, NY: Penguin Group. **Seventh grader Orville Wright, who has Asperger Syndrome, and Agatha Wong solve a mystery in the first of this series. Orville's differences are never explicitly labeled, but his characteristics are useful in solving mysteries.**

Choldenko, Gennifer. (2004). *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. New York, NY: G.P. Putnam. (Grade 4-8). **A 12-year-old boy moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guard's families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his sister, who has autism (though that diagnosis did not yet exist). Newberry Honor book. Sequel: *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*.**

Clark, Joan. (2005). *Jackson Whole Wyoming*. Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Co. (Grades 3-6). **A neurotypical boy has mixed feelings about associating with Jackson, a classmate who has Asperger Syndrome.**

Clark, Joan (2007). *Ann Drew Jackson*. Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Co. (Grades 3-6). **In this sequel to *Jackson Whole Wyoming*, Jackson befriends and helps a troubled girl at his new school.**

Heiman, Herb. (2007). ***Running On Dreams*** Autism Asperger Publishing Co. (Grades 5-8). **Middle-schooler Justin, who has autism, is paired with popular track star, Brad; the two experience adolescence and struggle to understand one another.**

Hoopmann, Kathy. (2001). ***Blue Bottle Mystery: An Asperger Adventure***. Jessica Kingsley Publishing. (Grades 3-6). **Tale of a mysterious blue bottle and the wisp of smoke that follow a boy and his friend through his journey toward coping with Asperger's Syndrome.**

Hoopman, Kathy. (2001). ***Of Mice and Aliens: An Asperger Adventure***. Jessica Kingsley Publishing. (Grades 3-6). **Sequel to *Blue Bottle Mystery*. Ben is learning to cope with his newly diagnosed Asperger Syndrome, but when an alien, Spick, crash-lands in his backyard, things really get complicated. Spick knows nothing about Earth's rules and norms, and it is up to Ben and his friend Andy to help him survive.**

Hoopmann, Kathy. (2001). ***Lisa and the Lacemaker: An Asperger Adventure***. Jessica Kingsley Publishing. (Grades 3-6).

Keating-Velasco, Joanna. (2008). ***In His Shoes: A Short Autism Journey***. Autism Asperger Publishing Co. (Grade 5-8). **Allows readers to experience the world as Nick does, a character with autism who is transitioning to middle school.**

Levine, Caroline. (2007). ***Jay Grows an Alien***. Autism Asperger Publishing Co. (Grades 4-8). **Takes reader into the life of a young man with Asperger Syndrome, who befriends an alien from outer space.**

Lord, Cynthia. (2006). ***Rules***. Scholastic Press. (Grades 3-8). **A 12-year-old girl manages her younger brother with autism and befriends a wheelchair-bound boy while forging her own identity.**

Lowry, Lois. (2003). ***The Silent Boy***. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company. (Grade 4-8). **A young girl in the early 1900's dreams of being a doctor and befriends an unusual boy.**

Martin, Ann M. (1990). ***The Babysitter's Club #32: Kristy and the Secret of Susan***. (Grades 3-6). New York, NY: Scholastic. **Thinking it unfair that her new baby-sitting charge, Susan, gets treated differently because she has autism, Kristy decides to change that situation.**

Ogaz, Nancy (2002). ***Buster and the Amazing Daisy: Adventures with Asperger Syndrome***. Jessica Kingsley Publishing. (Grades 3-6). **Daisy, who has Asperger Syndrome, defeats her bullies and overcomes her fears with the help of a very special rabbit named Buster.**

Rodowsky, Colby. (2004). ***Clay***. Harper Collins. (Grades 4-8). **Elsie and her younger brother with autism are stolen from their father by their emotionally unstable mother.**

Tarshis, Lauren. (2008). ***Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree***. Puffin Books. (Grades 5-8). **Emma-Jean, who has traits on the autism spectrum, helps a classmate and has adventures in middle school. Sequel *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love*.**

Victor, Pamela. (2006). ***Baj and the Word Launcher: Space Age Asperger Adventures in Communication***. Jessica Kingsley Publishers. (Grade 3-6). **Baj, a boy with Asperger traits who lives on a planet called Aular, receives special gadgets that help him communicate and keep his calm. Especially appropriate for students on the autism**

spectrum.

Welton, Jude. (2008). *Adam's Alternative Sport's Day: An Asperger Story*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers. (Grades 2-5). **Set against the backdrop of an "Alternative Sports Day" with riddles and quizzes that appeal to the main character, this book offers insights into how a child with Asperger Syndrome copes with the everyday challenges of school.**

### **Chapter Books (Teen/Young Adult) – Characters Who Have Autism**

Brenna, Beverly. (2005). *Wild Orchid*. Red Deer Press. (Grade 9 and up). **Taylor, an 18-year-old with Asperger Syndrome, struggles with typical adolescent issues in atypical ways - finding a job, finding a boyfriend, learning about herself, etc.**

Bristow, Catherine. (2008). *My Strange and Terrible Malady*. Autism Asperger Publishing. (Grade 8 and up). **Written from the perspective of a newly diagnosed teenage girl, this warm, funny tale is about adolescent confusion, the importance of mentoring/coaching and the power of friendship and acceptance.**

Haddon, Mark. (2004) *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Vintage. (Grade 9 - adult). **The reader gains insight into the mind of Christopher, a 15-year-old British boy with autism who is trying to solve the mystery of a murdered dog.**

Hoopmann, Kathy. (2003). *Haze: An Asperger Novel*. Jessica Kingsley Publishing. (Grade 8 and up). **Seb, a teenage loner with Asperger Syndrome, makes new friends and gets caught up in a web of computer fraud.**

Moon, Elizabeth. (2005). *The Speed of Dark*. Del Rey. (Grade 9 - adult). **A man with autism must decide whether to undergo an experimental treatment that will "cure" him.**

Stork, Francisco X. (2009). *Marcelo in the Real World*. Arthur A. Levine Books. (Grade 9 and up). **Marcelo, a 17-year-old with an Asperger's-like condition, is forced to exit his comfort zone when he takes a summer job in a law firm mail room.**

Werlin, Nancy. (2007). *Are You Alone on Purpose?* Speak Publishing. (Grade 8 and up). **Alison, who has a twin brother with autism, struggles with her family and forms an unlikely relationship with a bully.**

### **Books to Help Others Understand Autism**

Adams, Sue. (2008). *A Book About What Autism Can Be Like*. Jessica Kingsley Publishing. (Grades Pre-2). **The friendship of Chris and Andrew helps people understand the experiences of children with autism and recognize their many unique talents.**

Edwards, Andreanna. (2002). *Taking Autism to School*. JayJo Books. (Grades 2-5). **Educates and describes what life can be like for children with autism.**

Etlinger, Rebecca, (2005). *To Be Me: Understanding What it's Like to Have Asperger's Syndrome*. Creative Therapy Store. (Grades 2-5). **Written from 10-year-old David's point of view, he explains what it is like to have ASD.**

Hall, Kenneth. (2001). *Asperger Syndrome, the Universe and Everything*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers. (Grades 3-5). **Kenneth, who has Asperger's, wrote this book when he was**

**10 years old. He has a warm and positive attitude to Asperger's Syndrome which other children will find inspiring. Insights, struggles and joys are recounted vividly in a frank and humorous way.**

Gagnon, Elisa. (1999). *This Is Asperger Syndrome*. Autism Asperger Publishing Company. (Grades 2-5). **Lets the reader experience the world from the perspective of a young child with AS. Brief, easy-to-understand text accompanied by cartoon-like characters.**

Hoopman, Kathy (2006). *All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers. **Playful introduction to Asperger Syndrome, drawing inspiration from the feline world.**

Keating-Velasco, Joanna L. (2007). *A is for Autism, F is for Friend: A Kid's Book for Making Friends With a Child Who Has Autism*. Autism Asperger Publishing Co. (Grades 4-8). **Through a fictional 11-year-old character, Chelsea, readers learn about the experience of kids with autism, and what they can do to help.**

Neikirk, Lorin. (2009). *My Little Social Story about Understanding Autism: Learning About Acceptance*. CreateSpace.

Sabin, Ellen. (2006). *The Autism Acceptance Book*. Watering Can Press. (Grades 2-5). **A book full of information and activities that promote understanding of children with autism.**

Schnurr, Rosina G. (1999). *Asperger's Huh? A Child's Perspective*. Anisor Publishing. (Grades 3-6). **This book is written from the child's perspective with a very positive approach.**

Wine, Angela. (2005). *What It Is To Be Me!: An Asperger Kid Book*. Fairdale Publishing. (Grade Pre-2). **Written from the perspective of a boy with Asperger Syndrome, expresses what is cool and what is hard about having the disorder.**

Welton, Jude. (2003). *Can I Tell You About Asperger Syndrome? A Guide to Friends and Family*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers. (Grade 4 and up). **A young boy named Adam invites readers to learn about AS from his perspective.**