
Preface

This book is written specifically for every educator who teaches students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We have the greatest respect for you because we know the degree of dedication and enthusiasm necessary to make any real progress with these wonderful students. The fact that you have picked up this book suggests that you, like us, believe there is much more to learn about the education of students with ASD. So whether you are a general education teacher, special education teacher, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, social worker, or psychologist, our purpose is to help you, and your team, clarify a successful approach to working with a wide variety of children with autistic characteristics.

We were spurred on by our conviction that there are specific approaches that are more effective than others. Educators face many situations where best practices that are successful with other students do not bring the same expected results with students with ASD. So this book describes best practices for the ASD population; it focuses on approaches we have found successful in our work with individuals with this exceptionality.

Additionally, we believe that it is important to bring into the classroom the interventions that are based on the most recent research. We must all continually challenge ourselves to add to our repertoire of techniques; we must look for ways to promote independence, communication, and socially appropriate behavior along with academics in students who are often hard to motivate.

Finally, we were encouraged to write this book because we believe passionately in the potential of students with ASD. With well-chosen and intense intervention models, great progress can be made.