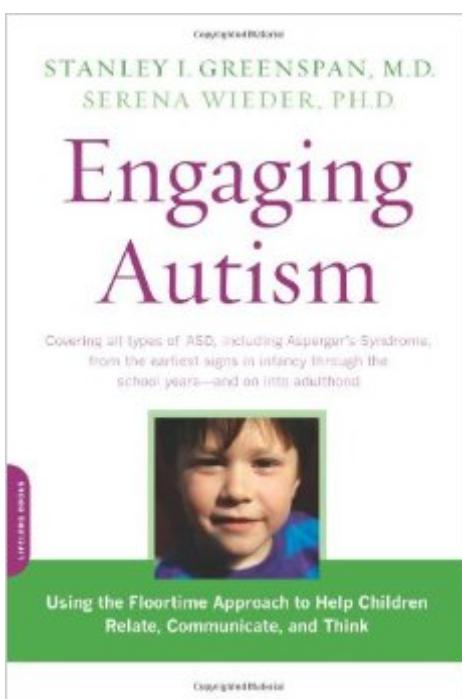


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Engaging Autism: Using The Floortime Approach To Help Children Relate, Communicate, And Think (A Merloyd Lawrence Book)



Synopsis

Grateful parents and professionals worldwide have welcomed this essential guide to the highly recommended Floortime approach for treating children with any of the autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Now available in paperback, *Engaging Autism* includes new, exciting information on neuroscience research into the effects of this approach, plus guidance for parents navigating the controversies surrounding the treatment of autism. Unlike approaches that focus on changing specific behavior, Greenspan's program promotes the building blocks of healthy emotional and behavioral development. He shows that, remarkably, children with ASD do not have a fixed, limited potential, and may often join their peers to lead full, psychologically healthy lives. The Floortime approach can also be applied at any age—including early infancy, when the first signs of risk for ASD may appear; so that preventing the full development of autism becomes a real possibility.

Book Information

Series: A Merloyd Lawrence Book

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Lifelong Books; 1 edition (February 10, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0738210943

ISBN-13: 978-0738210940

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (77 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #43,577 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Children's Health > Autism & Asperger's Syndrome #124 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Child Psychology #146 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Special Needs

Customer Reviews

This is a detailed look at a difficult subject but for the parent of a child with autism it is one of those stones that should not go unturned. Dr. Greenspan makes the extraordinary claim that he has treated thousands of children and adults with ASD and has never seen one that could not be moved forward on the spectrum, not even one. In many cases they have been able to join their peers in full healthy emotional and intellectual lives. Dr. Greenspan is no quack. He is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at George Washington University Medical School. He and Dr. Serena

Wieder have spent the last twenty five years developing the approach they call Floortime. Their thesis is that all learning begins with emotion. The tiniest infant typically bonds and begins to communicate with its mother because it finds that communication pleasurable and desirable. Each little step in the process represents a foundational building block required for the next step. Children with autism have missed some of those building blocks. The idea behind Floortime is to meet the child wherever she is emotionally. Find what the child likes to do. Join her in the activity. Follow her lead and establish an emotional bond that can be used to communicate in a way the child finds pleasurable. That in turn can allow her to put some of the missing foundation in place. Over time the child moves up on the spectrum. I find Dr. Greenspan's success stories inspirational. My four year old grandson has made remarkable progress in the two years since he was diagnosed with autism. He plays with his peers, makes strong eye contact, and laughs with his dad. But for the past six months or so he seems to be stuck on a language plateau.

This review of *Engaging Autism: Using the Floortime Approach to Help Children Relate, Communicate, and Think* is written for any person interested in autism. Its main intent, however, is to speak directly to a parent or caregiver who may be dealing with a child with the disorder. In this review, I refer to a child with the disability as "her" and "daughter," even though there is a predominance of boys with this disability. Early in the book's chapters, authors Greenspan and Wieder warn that the presence of one symptom should never lead to a diagnosis of autism. *Engaging Autism* lists these three problem areas as indicative of the disorder.¹ The first problem you may notice is your child's inability to establish closeness and affection when relating to you and others. You may notice she does not turn meaningfully to greet you. Her general body motions appear uncoordinated and random for her age - purposeless. You get the unmistakable gut feeling that she shows little or no affection in spite of your best attempts to show her intimacy and warmth.² The second problem you might notice is her failure to communicate with gestures and expressions of emotion. *Engaging Autism* believes your child may feel pleasure and sense affection; still she is unable to express this feeling.

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