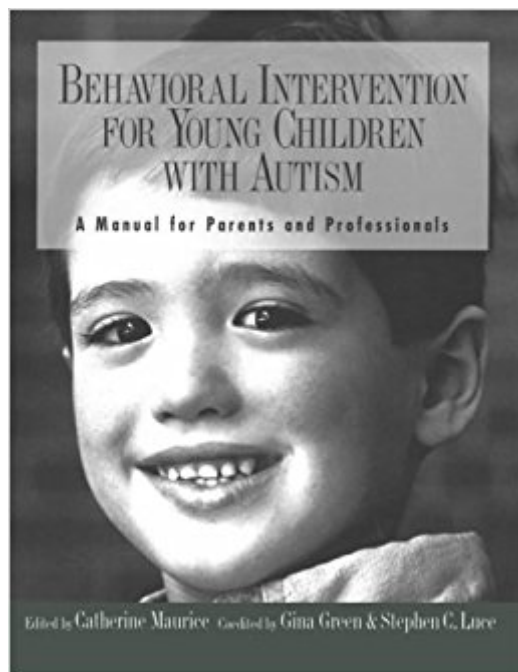




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Behavioral Intervention For Young Children With Autism: A Manual For Parents And Professionals



Synopsis

A growing body of research shows that many young children with autism and pervasive developmental disorders can derive significant, lasting, and sometimes dramatic benefits from early intervention based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. This manual, inspired by that research, provides a wealth of practical information for parents, professionals, and others concerned with helping such children. Authors include parents whose children have been the beneficiaries of a science based approach to autism treatment, as well as many noted researchers and experienced clinicians. The manual gives the reader concrete information on how to evaluate treatment options and differentiate scientifically validated interventions from fads and miracle cures; assess children's skills, needs, and progress objectively and systematically; teach children a wide variety of important skills, ranging from basics such as listening and looking, to complex language and social skills; and determine who is competent to deliver and supervise behavioral intervention.

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Customer Reviews

I had tremendous success with ABA therapy for my son, and this book is an excellent tool for implementing an ABA program. I also have great respect for the author of this book. However, I would like to caution readers that Ms. Maurice believes that autism is a nothing more than a behavioral disorder, and dismisses every other treatment that is not ABA. As we all know, every child with autism is different. Nobody knows why her kids recovered from ABA alone when so many do not. Although hundreds of doctors and thousands of parents believe that autistic children

(especially those with gastrointestinal problems) are physically ill, and metabolically, immunologically and nutritionally unstable, Ms. Maurice dismisses this as pseudoscience without entertaining the possibility that science may someday bear this out. I had great success with ABA, true, but I know many more kids who recovered from ABA plus biological intervention (GF/CF diet, anti-fungal treatment, immunotherapy) than from ABA alone. I researched my child's autism for years, and the most important thing I learned along the way is that autism is a complex disorder, with many subtypes. As a result of dietary intervention, my son lost his diagnosis and is now mainstreamed. During his treatment, missing a day of ABA didn't make a difference. Missing a day of dietary intervention set him back a month. For some of the kids, the autistic behaviors DO actually seem to result from the improper breakdown of certain proteins, and removing them actually takes away the disorder. When the scientific studies are completed and this is borne out, I pity the parents who listened to the chapter in this book in which such therapies are scorned and dismissed. Until we really understand autism, a closed mind can be disastrous for our children.

This is the book to get if you are considering running an intensive one on one program for your developmentally delayed child. From the science of ABA to the application of ABA, this book gives a solid outline. From the selection of tutors and consultants to obtaining funding, this book offers "how to" information. Part 2 Chapters include: Evaluating Claims about Treatments for Autism, Early Behavioral Intervention for Autism: What Does research Tell Us?, Are Other Treatments Effective?. Part 3 is What to Teach. Part 4 is How to Teach. Part 5 is Who Should Teach. Part 6 is Organizing and Funding. Part 7 is Working with an SLP. Part 8 Working with the Schools. Part 9 From the Front Lines: Parent's Questions, Parent's Voices. This section includes 4 children's stories. Is ABA successful in teaching 90% of children with Autism? You bet! In fact 40%+ will reach a point where they no longer fit the criteria for PDD or Autism. IQ scores increase. Autistic behavior is reduced. Attention is increased. Learning takes place. Is running a home ABA program time consuming and expensive? Yes it is time consuming and if you have to pay for it yourself it can be costly. Is it worth it? Yes. My 3 year old son now speaks in full sentences, has increased his IQ 20+ points, has reduced his autistic behaviors, is potty trained, dresses himself, reads books by himself, etc. This was all accomplished through positive reinforcement. No aversives were used. If you still have questions about ABA go to

The authors present an excellent overview of behavior analysis applied to the treatment of autistic children. There is a chapter on what methods have proven effective and what methods have not.

There is a terrific curriculum guide that shows Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced skills to work on. There are two chapters on language development & speech therapy that are very helpful. If you have a child with autism, buy this book. If you are a teacher or practioner also buy the more comprehensive guide "A Work In Progress.." written by Ron Leaf PhD, published in 1999.

This is a manual for setting up a behavioral program for an autistic child, a passionate yet practical approach to dealing with an extremely serious problem, a place to begin *doing* something. Parents of autistic children have to get involved in their children's treatment, even in those rare cases where the professionals they consult are really well-informed and do their best to map out the situation for the parents. Read the last chapters first, though, especially if you haven't read "Let Me Hear Your Voice." I started this book at the beginning, and it took me a long time to understand what it was about (this was the first book I read on autism, and I lacked a great deal of context and background, but the organization of the book did not help). It needs a better introduction, though perhaps I'm being too tough on the editors and authors. They've set themselves a very difficult task, and succeeded very well. I'd recommend that it be the second book read by parents looking at a diagnosis of autism or PDD for their child. The first should be Catherine Maurice's "Let Me Hear Your Voice." Perhaps that book is this book's best introduction.

I think the review from the reader from Manhattan, "Great for Treating Symptoms" is definitely right on the mark. I first found and read this book about four years ago. Autism was brand new to me, to our family, to our now 9 yr.-old "high-functioning" autistic son. He has come a long way, due to the fact that I never stop looking for new information, new materials to work with, etc. It's true that all children with autism are different and I hope that medical research will soon tell the world that there's a lot more going on there than simply a behavioral disorder (ie. gastrointestinal problems, autoimmune problems...) Our son also benefitted greatly from ABA and I believe it is probably the best starting place for most, if not all children with autism and related disorders, but it shouldn't be the only tool tried.

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