



**Autism-What Schools Are Missing: Voices For A New Path  
by Dr. Linda Barboa and Dr. Brenda Bradshaw**

With more than half a million children in the United States diagnosed with some degree of autism, public schools are struggling to keep up with the growing needs. The majority of these students are educated in local public schools, and those schools must now step up to the challenge.

Schools have both a moral and legal responsibility to educate these children about both academics and social skills. Autism encompasses a very wide spectrum of behaviors and learning problems. The variety of traits they present makes it particularly challenging for teachers and schools to guide these children to adulthood.

Autism—What Schools are Missing: Voices for a New Path examines the advantages and disadvantages of our public education system for those on the spectrum. This book takes a close look at the strategies and supports that have proven to be successful compared to those that actually increase the educator’s burden and limit the student’s success.

Educators can use the practical strategies detailed in this book to build an enabling environment for this growing population.

**5 Star Review:** If you care about the education of our children (all children), this book should be your next read.

This book is not just for an educator, a parent, grandparent, or legislator; it is for any thoughtful person that interacts with children in their home, daycare, libraries, churches, playgrounds, bus (transportation) a school setting (grade school environment, middle school environment, high school environment, community college or high education environment). Whether you are a parent, grand-parent, teacher, preacher, Bishop, Sunday school teacher, janitor, nurse, class room assistant, office personnel, security officer, lunchroom professional

(any interaction with children, on any level needs to read this book. 'Autism-What Schools Are Missing' should be mandatory reading for those students in our colleges being trained to educate (or care for) our children.

This book is not only a reference book, but a well thought out roadmap that will help you understand what defines Autism and how our school system is performing (living up to the challenge or NOT) with educating all our students including those that fall within the large spectrum of Autism.

After reading this book, I came away with a sense of URGENCY. Our children are our most precious gifts and our future generations. We will be judged by how well we educate and inspire each child to reach their full potential, not matter their handicap.

The many doctors, authors and contributors of this book come from many walks in life and the education, experience, and the knowledge they bring to this book, makes 'Autism-What Schools are Missing' a must read. I am encouraged to learn about the non-profit 'Stars for Autism' (organization based in the Springfield, Missouri area dedicated to increasing awareness and acceptance of individuals on the autism spectrum through community education). I am equally disturbed that in a country of such wealth, the funds needed to properly educate our teachers and staff, and the ability to acquire the best technical (computers and software) and other forms of learning aids to engage all our students with the best of the best, is either not provided for each student in every classroom or non-existent.

Even with laws in place to protect those with disabilities (Disabilities Act: IDEA) State and Federal Funding is woefully inadequate. When will our children and our educators become our top priority?

The information in this book is more than you can fully digest in one reading, but I challenge you to begin.

I would like to quote from 'Autism and Intelligence' by contributor Remrov Casey Vormer. "Autism is a huge spectrum and no autistic person is the same. Autism also comes with a huge variety of degrees in intelligence. There are many autistic people with a low or a normal intelligence level, but there are also those who have an above average IQ. But unfortunately, this is often not recognized. Like many other autistic people, I had many issues with communicating and language when I was younger. I had a lot of thoughts, but my thoughts were in images rather than words, and it was very difficult for me to translate those thoughts into words and express them in the language others could understand. So, I often stayed quiet, and when I did speak it was only small and short sentences, or the words I heard other people speak. My lack of speech and my incorrect usage of words often made people think that I was unintelligent, and that I had an IQ very much below average. Much later in life it turned out that I actually had a very high IQ."

Every child deserves our respect and more than sincere effort, our complete success in giving him or her the best in life, education, health and all the tools to help them not only reach for the stars, but obtain personal greatness.

Review by Theodocia McLean (Book Marketing Global Network).

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**About Author Dr. Linda Barboa** holds degrees in speech pathology and audiology, psychology, and early childhood education. She is an experienced speech-language pathologist, with a background as a special education director, director of a center for autism, and university professor. She has worked as an educator in the United States and Europe and has presented numerous programs to professionals across the country. Dr. Barboa is the author of several books about autism, including *Stars in Her Eyes: Navigating the Maze of Childhood Autism*, *Steps: Forming a Disability Ministry*, and *Tic Toc Autism Clock: A Guide to Your 24/7 Parent Plan*, *It's No Biggie: Autism in the Early Childhood Classroom*, and *Oodles and Skoodles of Friends*. Along with Jan Luck, she is the co-author of the Albert series of books to help children understand autism.

Dr. Barboa, is the recipient of the prestigious JEFFERSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE. She is the founder of an award-winning program to create autism friendly cities. Jan Luck holds a degree in speech pathology and audiology. She began her career working for the State of Arkansas serving clients of all ages with special needs. She dedicated her career to working as a Speech Therapist for the Mountain Home, Arkansas Public Schools, where she worked with children on the autism spectrum.

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