

The fabric of AUTISM

Weaving The Threads Into A Cogent Theory

Praise for *The Fabric of Autism*

"Bluestone makes valid points regarding the sensory perceptions of those with autism and the value of helping autistic individuals understand why certain events are occurring or particular decisions have been made for them. Parents will find *The Fabric of Autism* particularly valuable, as it provides a range of options and insights."

—Professor Tony Attwood
Author of *Asperger's Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals*

"In *The Fabric of Autism*, Bluestone gives us breathtaking insights into the workings of the mind, especially the autistic mind. Only someone with the inquisitive mind of a scientist, a heart full of compassion, and the first-hand knowledge of how autism feels could have written this book."

—Marybets Sinclair, LMT
Author of *Pediatric Massage Therapy*

In *The Fabric of Autism: Weaving the Threads into a Cogent Theory*, Judith Bluestone combines her personal autistic experience with academic research and more than 35 years of clinical practice to craft a unique and compelling view of the phenomenon called autism.

Bluestone's book is both a significant clinical work and a moving memoir that illuminates the humanity beneath the bewildering facade of autism. In *The Fabric of Autism*, Bluestone speaks of her own autistic experience: "As someone who has experienced the roadway of my nervous systems as a traumatic bumper car ride, I lived basically outside the mainstream. I still do, when I can choose. And yet the cloth I donned to journey down this path was not left unaffected by society. My threads were pulled continually in attempts to understand my behaviors or to tug me in one direction or another. My fabric became snagged and frayed as I attempted to share this world with people who were not autistic. And I learned."

Infused with rare insights into the etiology of autistic behaviors, *The Fabric of Autism* weaves the various threads of autism into a sensible theory while simultaneously offering practical tools for strengthening the interactive system of body-brain-mind-spirit. Neuroscientific research, knowledge of developmental processes, and clinical outcomes shed light on probable causes of autism.

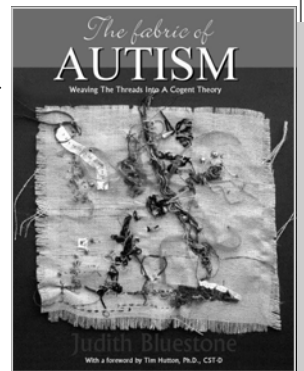
Read *The Fabric of Autism* and take a riveting journey into the world of individuals whose lives are influenced by ASD, most of whom have achieved significant improvements in their communication, general functionality and quality of life with the help of **HANDLE®**—**H**olistic **A**pproach to **N**eu**R**o**D**evelopment and **L**earning **E**fficiency.

The maladaptive behaviors others see as symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorders, Bluestone consid-

ers the body's language—its communication system. These behaviors represent core neurodevelopmental weaknesses that respond to consistent, gentle, progressive reorganization through the neuroscientifically sound HANDLE approach. Bluestone writes, "Evan is just one of hundreds of children whose behavioral symptoms were red flags calling our attention to the systems that needed strengthening. Instead, he received medication in attempts to mask these behaviors, and suggestions of behavior modification therapies designed to replace those rituals that served his needs with routinized behaviors and scripts that served the needs of his social group. But his symptoms persisted. Why? Because they must, until they are recognized and treated developmentally as integral parts of the system, not as separate annoying traits."

The Fabric of Autism shows us that compassion, understanding, and intuition can co-exist with neuroscience, as it provides a new view and appreciation of the complex neurological dysfunction labeled autism. It also provides a number of practical suggestions that are helping a growing number of individuals and families in the United States, United Kingdom, Europe, Israel and South Africa to resolve many of their challenges and attain functional, adaptive, responsible lives.

The Fabric of Autism is significant reading particularly for all parents and professionals interested in Autism Spectrum Disorders, and it is valuable for those struggling to understand numerous other disorders of communication and learning.



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