

An Early Start for Your Child with Autism: Using Everyday Activities to Help Kids Connect, Communicate, and Learn

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Cutting-edge research reveals that parents can play a huge role in helping toddlers and preschoolers with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) connect with others and live up to their potential. This encouraging guide from the developers of a groundbreaking early intervention program provides doable, practical strategies you can use every day. Nearly all young kids—including those with ASD—have an amazing capacity to learn. Drs. Sally Rogers, Geraldine Dawson, and Laurie Vismara make it surprisingly simple to turn daily routines like breakfast or bath time into fun and rewarding learning experiences that target crucial developmental skills. Vivid examples illustrate proven techniques for promoting play, language, and engagement. Get an early start—and give your child the tools to explore and enjoy the world.

Winner--American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award

Mental health professionals, see also the authors' related intervention manual, *Early Start Denver Model for Young Children with Autism*, as well as the *Early Start Denver Model Curriculum Checklist for Young Children with Autism* (sold in sets of 15).

Sally J. Rogers, PhD, is Professor of Psychiatry at the MIND Institute at the University of California, Davis. She is a pioneering autism researcher known for her work on early intervention for preschoolers, imitation deficits, family interventions, and autism in infancy. With Geraldine Dawson and colleagues, Dr. Rogers developed the Early Start Denver Model, the treatment approach that is the basis for this book.

Geraldine Dawson, PhD, is Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development at Duke University. She served as Founding Director of the University of Washington Autism Center. An internationally recognized autism expert with a focus on early detection, intervention, and brain plasticity in autism, Dr. Dawson is a passionate advocate for families. She is coauthor of *An Early Start for Your Child with Autism* and *A Parent's Guide to Asperger Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism*. Laurie A. Vismara, PhD, is a clinical research scientist at the MIND Institute at the University of California, Davis, and a board-certified behavior analyst. Dr. Vismara's interests include developing innovative ways to teach early intervention techniques to professionals and parents. "Easy to read, highly informative, and packed with useful strategies, this is a wonderful resource for parents."--Fred R. Volkmar, MD, coauthor of *A Practical Guide to Autism*

"A remarkable achievement. Drs. Rogers, Dawson, and Vismara have succeeded in translating the latest and best scientific evidence into practical suggestions for improving your child's social and communication skills. They write with clarity, insight, and even humor. This is a book you will prize highly."--Peter Szatmari, MD, author of *A Mind Apart: Understanding Children with Autism and Asperger Syndrome*

"I was so overwhelmed when my child was diagnosed. This book is the road map I needed.

written by experts I trust."--Laura Shumaker, author, San Francisco Chronicle autism blog

"Parents are going to love this book! It translates the important work of the Early Start Denver Model into strategies that can be implemented at home. The book shows how parents everywhere can give their children with autism spectrum disorders the support they need to learn to communicate and play."--Ilene Schwartz, PhD, Director, Haring Center for Applied Research and Training in Education, University of Washington, and coauthor of Building Blocks for Teaching Preschoolers with Special Needs

"Skills are taught in the context of everyday activities such as dressing, bathing, and mealtimes, which does not add any extra burden to a family's daily routine....The book is extremely well-organized, well-written, and easy to read which allows for a broad audience of parents and professionals alike....This book does an excellent job providing tangible strategies to add hopefulness in the reader. Throughout the book, emphasis is provided using italicized, bolded, and bulleted points. The book is organized with clear headings, step-by-step activities, activity checklists, examples/anecdotes about children and their families, and handouts (e.g., Refrigerator Lists, Activity Logs)....The ease of use is remarkable and makes this book a resource that caregivers can easily refer back to throughout a child's early development....An Early Start for Your Child with Autism is an ideal resource for parents of children first receiving a diagnosis of ASD, but also an excellent resource for parents of children already receiving services. The layout of the book is well thought out and each chapter clearly builds on the next. The book is extremely well-organized and can be used in an "a la carte" manner for caregivers who may have already learned certain skills covered in earlier chapters. The book is priced extremely competitively....The authors do an excellent job integrating research and theory with practical skills-based strategies....Overall, this is a well-written and extremely relevant resource, which every caregiver of a young child with autism would benefit from regardless of the child's level of functioning or current skill set." (Child and Family Behavior Therapy 2014-08-04)

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Turtles All The Way Down.

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