Book Review

**Autism. The sacrifice of a mother**


doi: 10.1111/bld.12165

A mother of a son on the autism spectrum has written this book. The book provides a narrative and reflective account of her son and his journey as a child/young person living with autism. The rationale of the book is to enable readers to understand that she is:

*just an act within the script of life... ensuring that Tony - the major character - is in line as scripted and you the spectator are satisfied* (McEwan, 2014, p 9).

To this end, Freda [the mother] relates to the reader problems and the successes she has encountered with Tony. Her book illustrates the hurdles and many challenges commonly experienced by families dealing with a diagnosis of autism, and all that that entails. What is clear from the book is that Freda feels that ‘society’ does not understand autism. In addition, she presents a compelling narrative of society’s lack of cognisance of the implications that autism has on families. Furthermore, she argues that the child on the autism spectrum does not understand the negative reactions they encounter from the world they live in.

Freda uses poems to help illustrate how herself and Tony feel about their struggles. These poems are interspersed throughout the book and help to articulate views that might otherwise be difficult to express in text.

The book is written in an informative style. It clearly illustrates the frustrations experienced by families in similar situations. She supports key information with clear explanations and references, indicating where she obtained her information. This is a good resource for anyone working with children on the autism spectrum, as the families they support may not necessarily be able to share the challenges they are experiencing both at home and elsewhere because of the very personal and intimate nature of such experiences. This book clearly illustrates how life with a child on the autism spectrum might be thought of as a series of hurdles, which can be perceived as more steps ‘backward’ than steps ‘forward’. However, towards the end of the book Freda lists the many skills that Tony has mastered, which shows that it is possible to work with children on autism spectrum to enable them to gain life skills. She does not, however, say that it is the same for all children on the autism spectrum, as clearly each child will be different. The book also demonstrates how society may find some behaviour displayed by some children on the autism spectrum hard to deal with, and the impact this has on families.

Personal accounts such as this are a valuable learning tool. Freda’s narrative is very personal in nature. Therefore, the reader perhaps should not judge what she says, and feels about her experiences, but rather use these feelings and experiences to learn how they could apply this to their practice when supporting children on the autism spectrum and their families. Any student on health- or social care courses who potentially works with children on the autism spectrum, and their families would benefit from reading this book. The reader may not agree with all of the content, but they will gain an invaluable insight into the daily struggles and challenges this particular family has encountered.

Laila Paulsen-Becejac
E-mail: laila.paulsen@uwl.ac.uk
mothering practice was extensively described, starting with the right way to hold and feed an infant and moving on through when and how often children should be hugged, kissed, scolded, or spanked. The autism mom must position herself as a heroine, locating and tirelessly attacking the threat of autistic symptoms through purchase of the right therapies; avoiding toxins in the diet, environment, and medicines; and accepting that autistic behavior is wrong and must be countered via psychiatric medication or direct action. Trottier G, Srivastava L, Walker CD. Etiology of infantile autism: a review of recent advances in genetic and neurobiological research. J Psychiatry Neurosci. 1999;24(2):103-115. Autism, a member of the pervasive developmental disorders (PDDs), has been increasing dramatically since its description by Leo Kanner in 1943. First estimated to occur in 4 to 5 per 10,000 children, the incidence of autism is now 1 per 110 in the United States, and 1 per 64 in the United Kingdom, with similar incidences throughout the world. Searching information from 1943 to the present in PubMed and Ovid Medline databases, this review summarizes results that correlate the timing of changes in incidence with environmental changes. Autism could result from more than one cause, with different Review: Crisis Sacrifices Character for the Sake of Delivering an Op-Ed. Review: Rifkin's Festival Is a Complacently Tossed-Off Misfire for Woody Allen. Review: The Vigil Confidently Roots Its Horror in Jewish Culture and Mysticism. Review: The United States vs. Billie Holiday Is Anchored by a Magnetic Andra Day. Music. Every Daft Punk Album Ranked. Somewhat ironically, the apolitical stance of A Mother's Courage is made possible only by a disregard for autism's hysterically hypothetical periphery. Director: Fridrik Thor Fridriksson Distributor: First Run Films Running Time: 105 min Rating: NR Year: 2009 Buy: Video. Up Next. AUTISM book. Read reviews from worldâ€™s largest community for readers. The book is about a journey of a young man diagnosed with autism as a toddler and h...Â The book is about a journey of a young man diagnosed with autism as a toddler and his mother. The experiences the mother had in raising him up as a single parent from conception to the age of 18. Her strengths and beliefs, which made her extraordinary in her courage and zeal to protect her child. It is a demonstration of selflessness, agape, and ability to sustain ambition. The book is about a journey of a young man diagnosed with autism as a toddler and his mother. The experiences the mother had in raising him up as a single parent from conception to the age of 18. Mother sacrifices her food, time and happiness for children and seldom complaints for the bad time she undergoes. From my experience I can tell, I never got beatings and scolding from my mother, she was very understanding and helped me to come up in life with her love and care. Related Questions. More Answers Below. As a parent, what have you had to sacrifice for your children, and if so, were there any regrets? What's the saddest sacrifice your mother made for you? What is sacrifice? Â If you can answer these questions, then you will understand why a mother sacrifices so much. The secret is, it is a God given instinct which is made for the purpose of giving a helpless child a protective, loving and caring guardianship for life. Unique, priceless, irrevocable. 2.1K views Â·.