

Georgetown Central School, Georgetown, Maine
Autism Society of Maine
How to be a friend to someone who has Autism



Deb
Thibodeau

Welcome!

Ground Rules:

- Listen
- Take Turns
- Show Respect
- Be Open

A blue background with wavy, layered lines in various shades of blue, creating a sense of depth and movement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2OURx5iPfs>

A blue background with wavy, layered lines in various shades of blue, creating a sense of depth and movement.

What is a disability?

Brainstorm on Newsprint

Autism Spectrum Disorder



Autistic Disorder

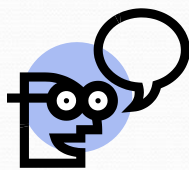
Asperger's Disorder

Pervasive Developmental Disorder: Not Otherwise Specified

Retts Disorder

Childhood Disintegrative Disorder

Autism: 3 Areas of Development



Language and Communication

Autism
Spectrum
Disorders

Social Interaction



Play & Interests



Autism is...

- A developmental disability.
- Usually evident during the first three years of life.
- Present in one out of every 68 births.
(based on statistics from the Center for Disease Control)



Autism ...

- Is the result of a neurological disorder.
- Affects functioning of the brain.
- Interferes with brain development.



Autism is...



- A “spectrum” disorder.
- Four times more prevalent in boys than girls.
- Not limited by race, ethnicity, or social status.

Autism Checklist

- ✓ Difficulty interacting with other children
- ✓ Insistence on sameness; resists change in routine
- ✓ Inappropriate laughing and giggling
- ✓ No real fear of danger
- ✓ Little or no eye contact
- ✓ Unresponsive to normal teaching methods
- ✓ Sustained odd play
- ✓ Apparent insensitivity to pain



Autism Checklist

- ✓ Echolalia (repeating words or phrases in place of normal language)
- ✓ Prefers to be alone, aloof manner
- ✓ May not want cuddling or act cuddly
- ✓ Spins objects
- ✓ Noticeable physical over-activity or extreme under-activity
- ✓ Tantrums – displays extreme distress for no apparent reason
- ✓ Not responsive to verbal interactions, acts as if deaf
- ✓ Inappropriate attachment to objects
- ✓ Uneven gross/fine motor skills
- ✓ Difficulty in expressing needs



General Strategies



- Be aware of his or her mode of communication.
- Speak slowly and clearly using simple, concrete language.
- Allow enough time for the person to process what you have said and generate a response.
- Try to pair language with visuals and/or gestures if needed.

General Strategies continued...

- Do not insist on eye contact.
- Try to build a rapport using his or her hobbies or interests as a building block.
- Maintain personal space.
- Create an environment that is not over stimulating.
(Sensory needs are unique)
- Pay attention to nonverbal signs of comfort/stress levels.



General Strategies continued...

Accept and respect differences!






Let's take a look...



What is Bullying?



Patrick's story



What can we do to be a friend
and
prevent bullying?

Let's go back to the Web...

Social Skill Strategies--Teachers

- Protect the child from bullying and teasing- he/she may not be aware that someone has negative intentions and may even go along with it.
- Establish a buddy system.
- Build in time for child to watch peers so that he/she can see age appropriate behaviors and interactions.
- Provide ample opportunities to practice new skills with peers and adults. (role playing/Social Stories)
- Educate peers to establish a supportive community.



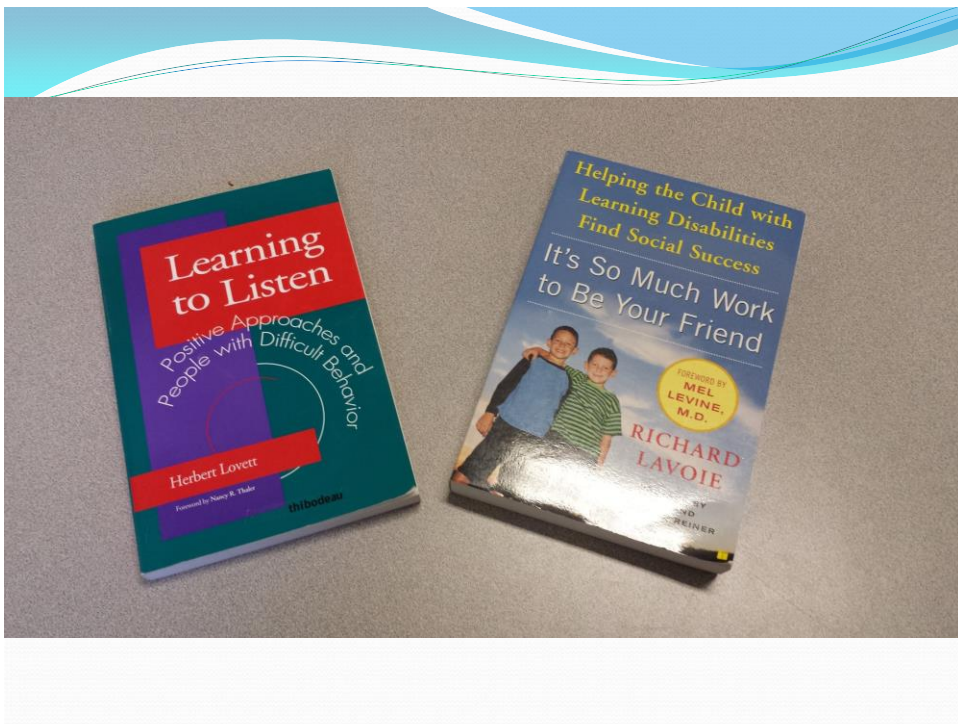
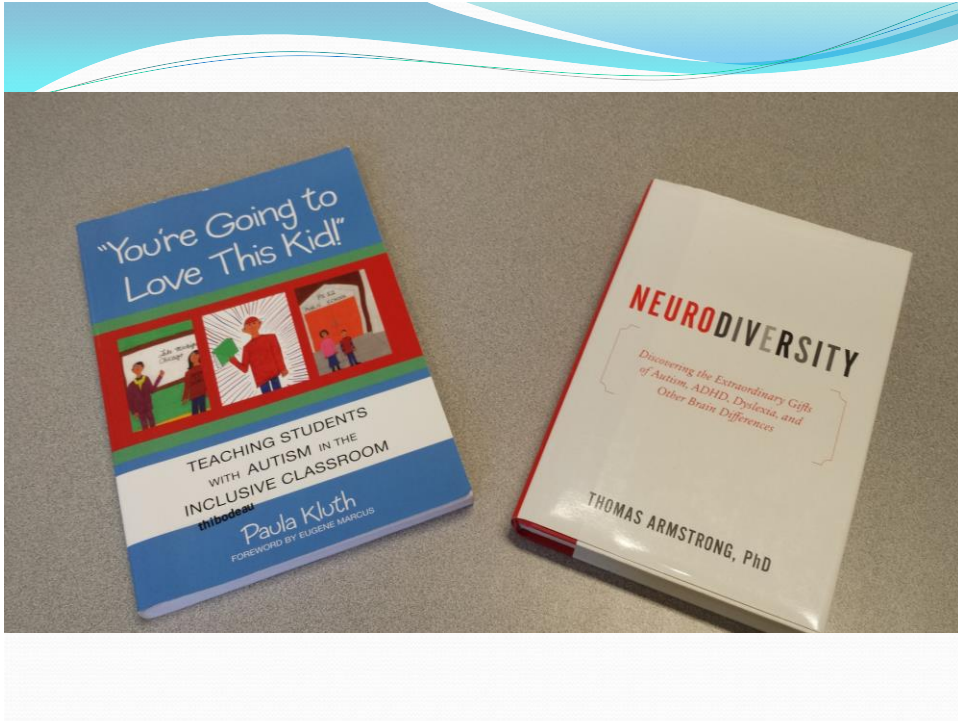
Social Skill Strategies--Teachers

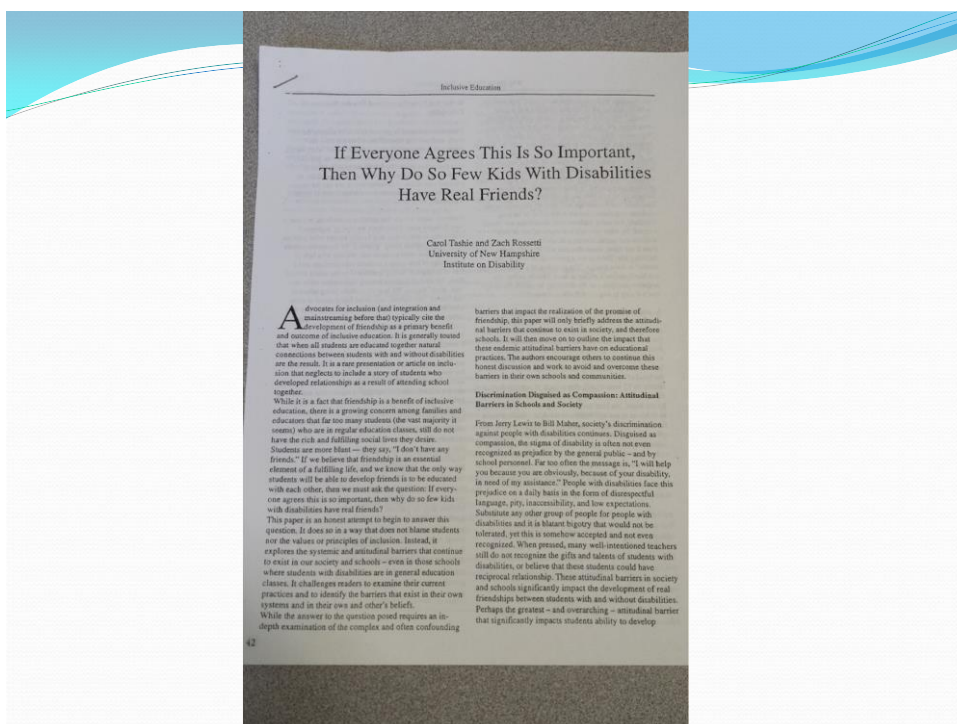
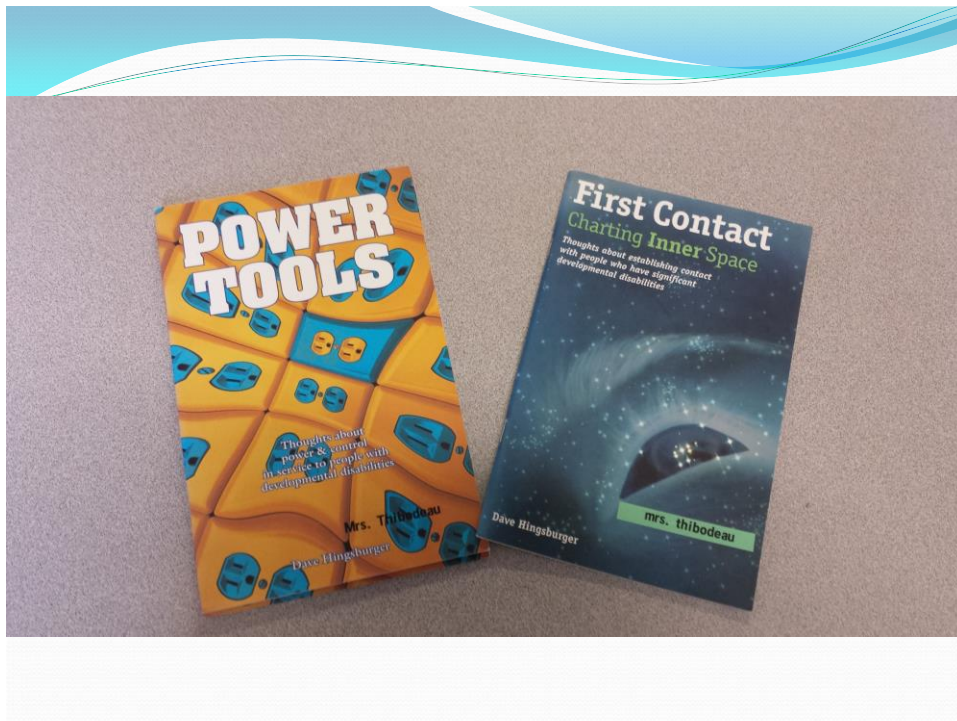
Continued

- Develop shared interests using the individual's interests and strengths.
- Create cooperative learning situations where the individual can share his/her proficiencies.
- Encourage and praise participation in group interactions using behavior specific language. ("I really like how you threw the ball to Sam.")
- Be aware that unstructured "free play" is often difficult for children with autism.
- Listen—Dr. Ross Greene, Maine



Resources include...

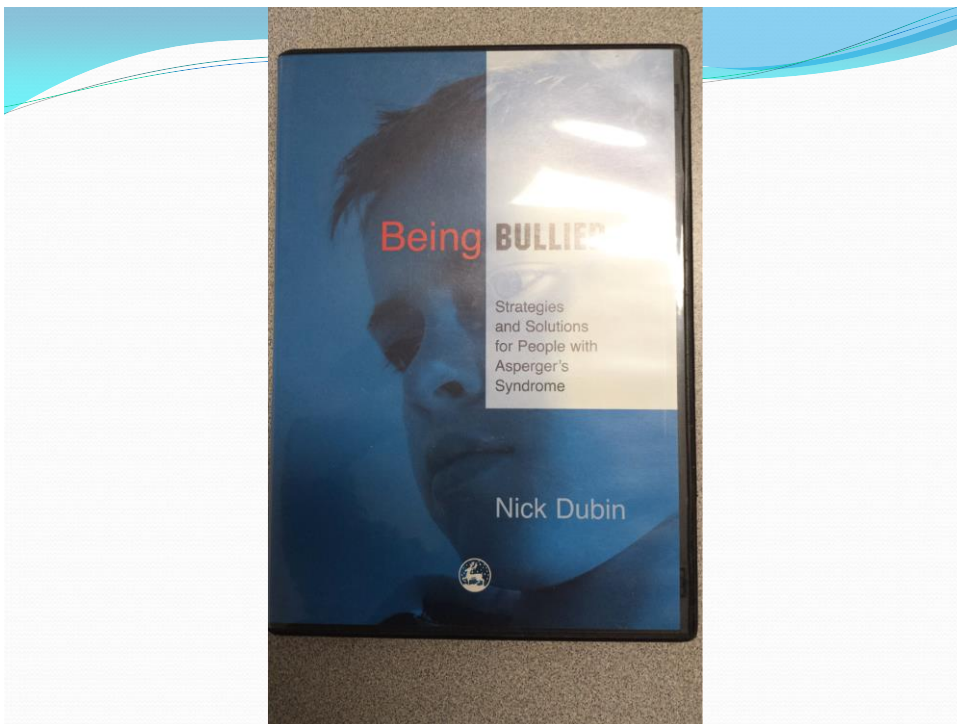


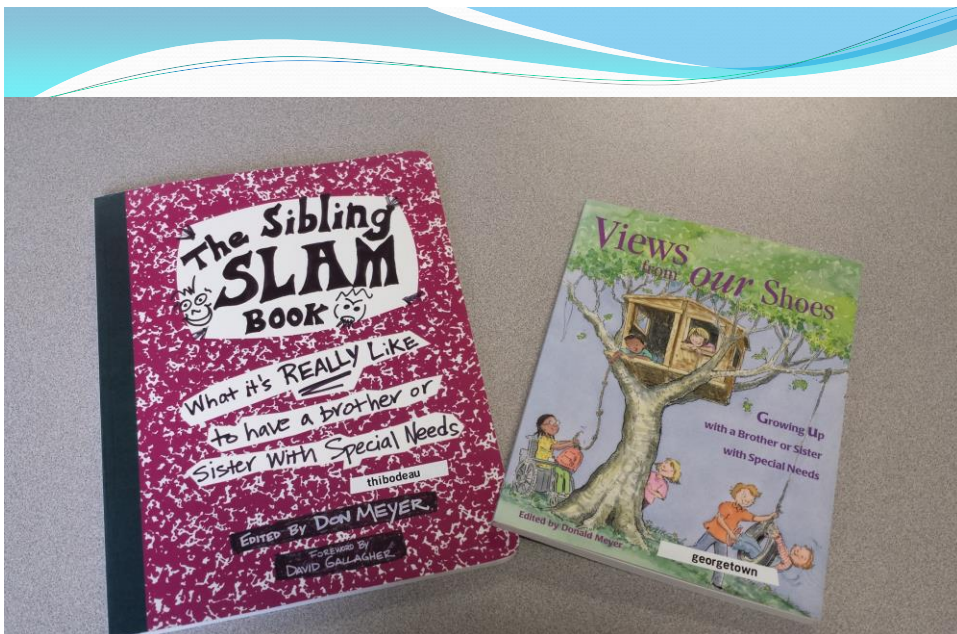
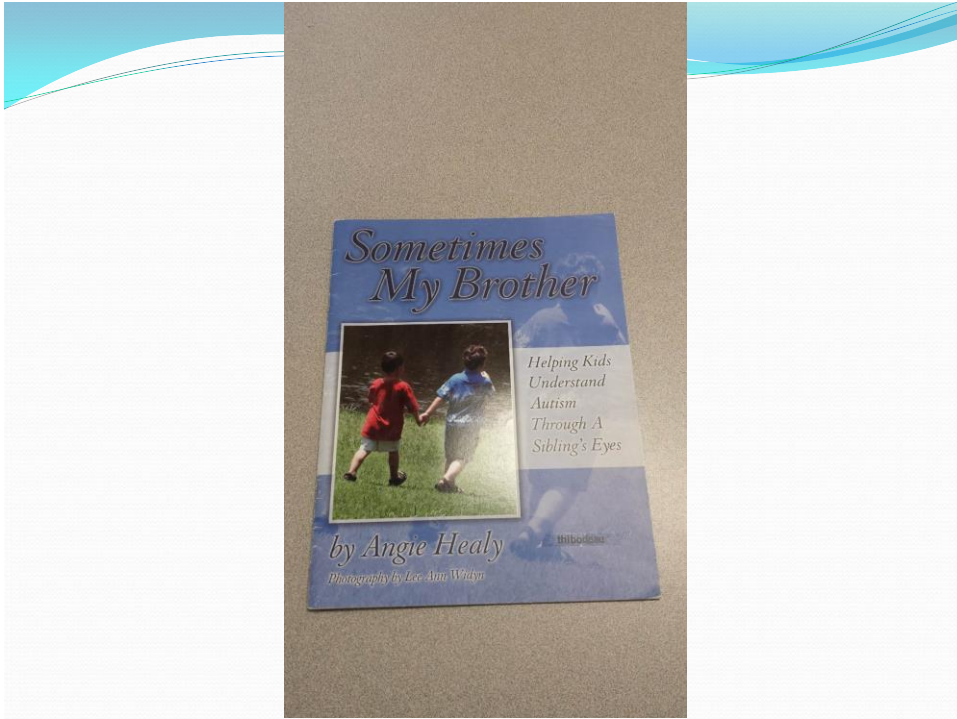


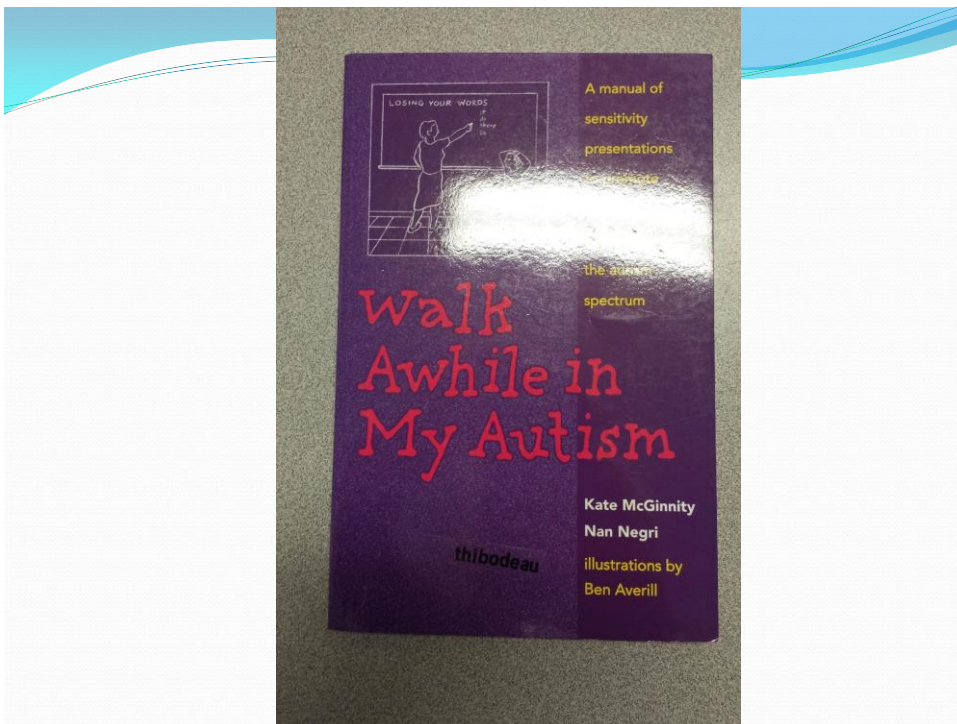
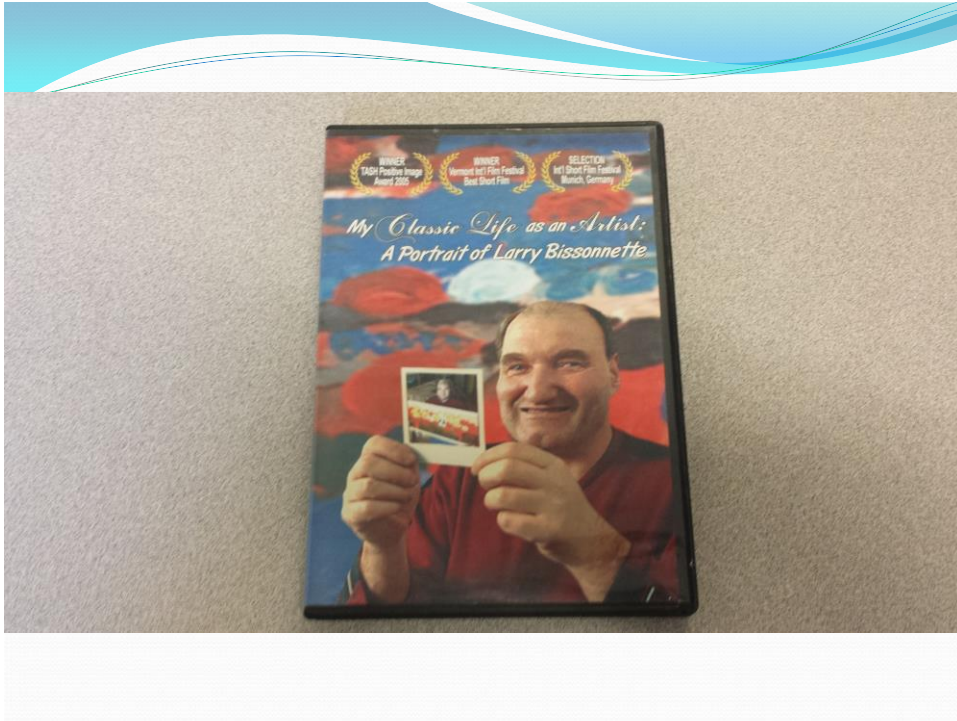


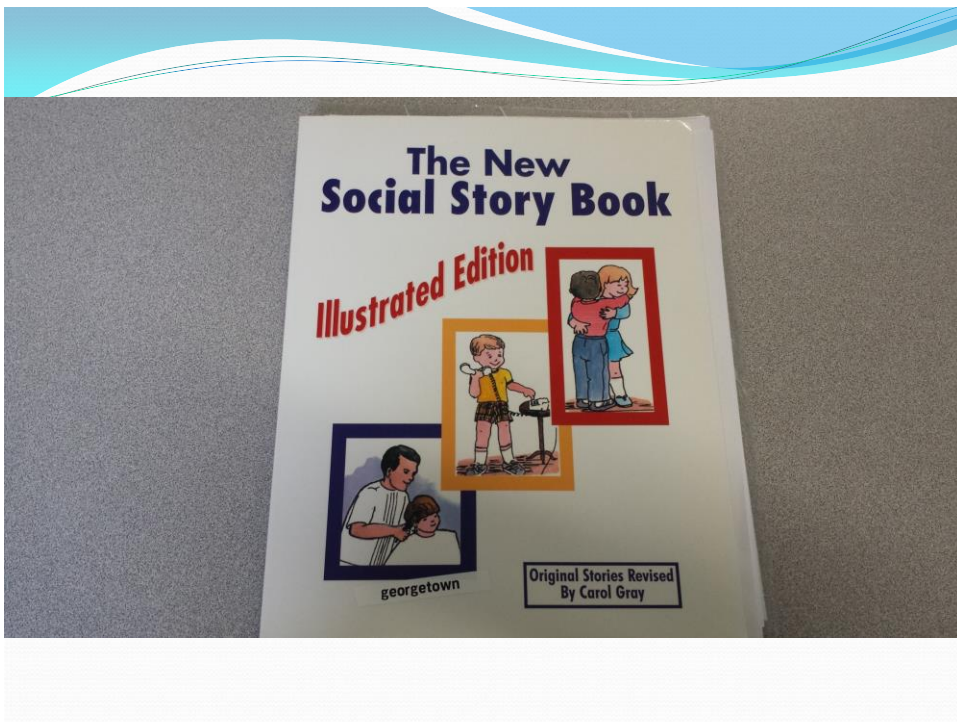
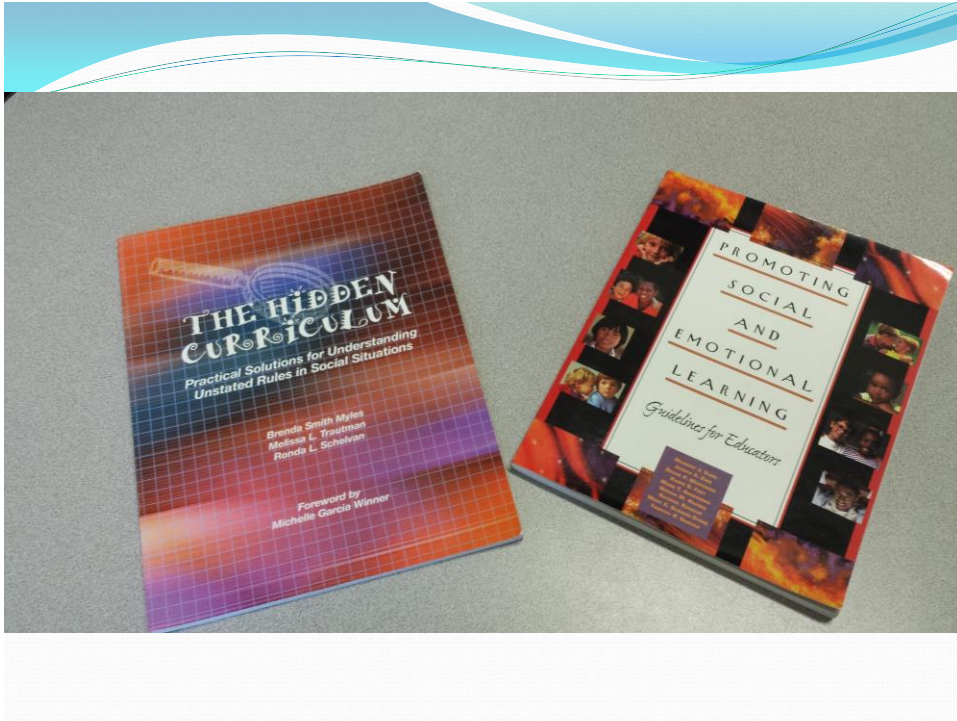


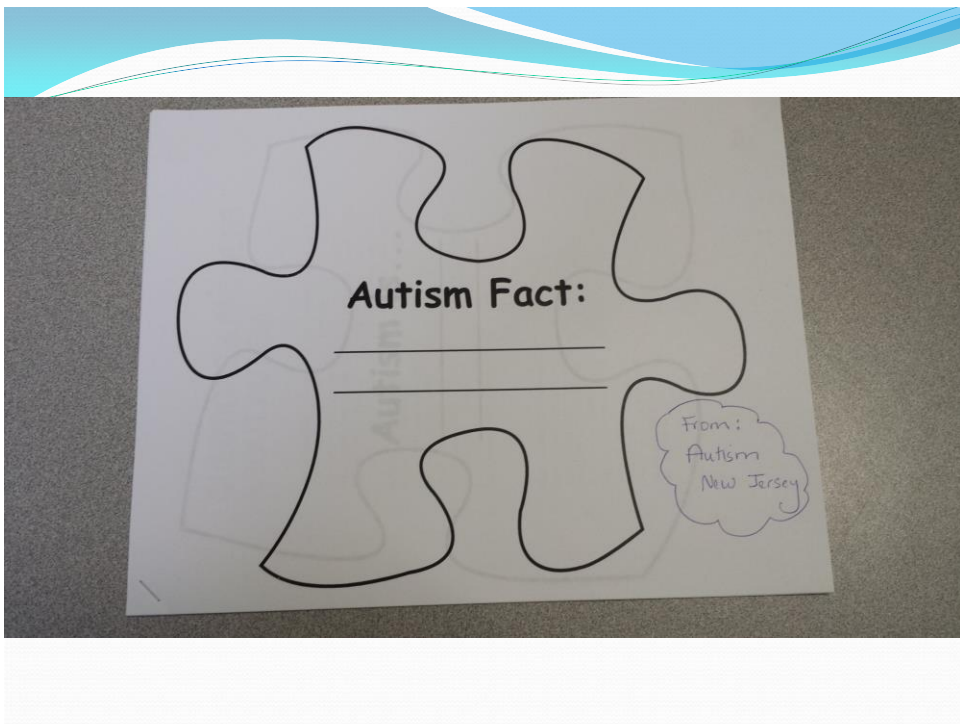














<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cwrkw3hfSdM>



Working Together

Resources



- Autism Society of Maine
<http://www.asmonline.org>
- National Autism Society formally known as Autism Society of America
<http://www.autism-society.org>
- Asperger's Association of New England
<http://www.aane.org>
- Department of Education – Special Ed.
<http://www.maine.gov/education/speced/index.htm>
- Family Voices
<http://www.familyvoices.org>
- Autism Speaks
<https://www.autismspeaks.org/>

Thank you!

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