


Autism Speaks Shock Therapy



Autism Speaks continues to support the ban on the use of electrical stimulation devices and aversion therapy

Autism Speaks and Shock Therapy: Separating Fact from Fiction

The phrase "Autism Speaks shock therapy" might evoke immediate alarm and concern. The very notion of using shock therapy on autistic individuals is deeply disturbing and, thankfully, is not a medically accepted practice. This blog post will delve into the origins of this misconception, clarifying the relationship (or lack thereof) between Autism Speaks and any form of electroshock therapy, and exploring the ethical and factual implications of such a claim. We will examine the history of autism treatment, the current understanding of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and the role of reputable organizations like Autism Speaks in promoting evidence-based interventions. This post aims to provide a clear, factual, and compassionate understanding of this sensitive topic.

The Misinformation Landscape: Understanding the Source of the Claim

The connection between Autism Speaks and shock therapy is entirely unfounded and likely stems from the spread of misinformation. Several factors contribute to the perpetuation of false narratives online:

Misinterpretation of historical treatments: Early treatments for autism, some of which were unethical and harmful, are sometimes incorrectly attributed to modern organizations like Autism Speaks. It's crucial to remember that the understanding of autism and its treatment has evolved significantly over time. Outdated and harmful practices should not be linked to current organizations.

Anti-vaccine rhetoric: The anti-vaccine movement often fuels misinformation campaigns that incorrectly link autism to various medical interventions. These campaigns can sometimes conflate legitimate concerns about medical treatments with fabricated claims involving harmful practices.

Social media echo chambers: Misinformation spreads rapidly on social media platforms, often within echo chambers that reinforce false beliefs. Without critical analysis and fact-checking, untrue claims can quickly gain traction and become widely accepted.

Lack of understanding of Autism Speaks' mission: Autism Speaks is a large organization, and its nuanced approach to research and advocacy might be misinterpreted by those unfamiliar with its activities. It's vital to understand their stated goals and the evidence-based approaches they promote.

Autism Speaks' Actual Role in Autism Research and Support

Autism Speaks' primary focus is funding research into the causes, treatments, and potential cures for autism spectrum disorder. Their initiatives include:

Funding scientific research: They invest heavily in research projects aiming to understand the neurological and genetic basis of autism.

Developing resources for families: They provide support and resources for families affected by autism, including educational materials and community programs.

Advocating for autism acceptance: They work towards greater understanding and acceptance of individuals with autism within society.

It is important to emphasize that Autism Speaks' work is firmly rooted in evidence-based practices. They do not endorse or support the use of unproven or harmful treatments like shock therapy. Any suggestion to the contrary is a dangerous falsehood.

Ethical Considerations and the Importance of Evidence-Based Care

The use of any form of aversive therapy, including shock therapy, on vulnerable populations is ethically reprehensible. Modern medical ethics emphasize respect for patient autonomy, informed consent, and the avoidance of harm. Electroshock therapy, particularly without proper medical indication, would constitute a severe breach of these ethical principles.

Any treatment for autism, or any condition, should be based on scientific evidence and administered by qualified professionals. This means rigorous testing, peer review, and a clear understanding of potential risks and benefits. Organizations like Autism Speaks actively promote this evidence-based approach, advocating for treatments that are both safe and effective.

The Dangers of Misinformation and the Need for Critical Thinking

The spread of misinformation about Autism Speaks and shock therapy is not only harmful but can also have serious consequences. It can lead to:

Delayed diagnosis and treatment: Families may delay seeking appropriate help for their children due to fear of misinformation.

Erosion of trust in legitimate organizations: False claims can damage the credibility of organizations genuinely working to support autistic individuals.

Increased stigma and discrimination: Misinformation often fuels negative stereotypes and prejudices against autistic people.

It is crucial for individuals to develop critical thinking skills and to rely on reliable sources of information when learning about complex medical topics. Fact-checking websites, peer-reviewed scientific articles, and reputable organizations are far better sources of information than social media posts or unsubstantiated claims.

Conclusion

The claim that Autism Speaks promotes or supports shock therapy is unequivocally false. This misinformation is dangerous and harmful, perpetuating negative stereotypes and hindering access to evidence-based care for autistic individuals. It's vital to rely on credible sources of information and to challenge any unsubstantiated claims about autism treatment. Autism Speaks, in reality, dedicates its efforts to supporting research and resources focused on improving the lives of autistic individuals and their families.

FAQs

1. Has Autism Speaks ever conducted research involving electroshock therapy? No, Autism Speaks has never conducted or endorsed research involving electroshock therapy for autism. Their research focus is on evidence-based interventions.
2. Where can I find reliable information about autism treatments? Consult your pediatrician, a child psychologist specializing in autism, or reputable organizations like the Autism Society of America and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
3. What are some evidence-based treatments for autism? Evidence-based treatments often include applied behavior analysis (ABA), speech therapy, occupational therapy, and social skills training.

4. How can I combat the spread of misinformation about autism? Be critical of the information you encounter online. Fact-check claims before sharing them, and report misinformation to the relevant platforms.

5. What is the role of parents and caregivers in seeking appropriate care for autistic children? Parents and caregivers play a crucial role in advocating for their children and actively participating in their treatment plans. They should seek out qualified professionals and work collaboratively with them to develop appropriate interventions.

autism speaks shock therapy: Autistic Community and the Neurodiversity Movement Steven K. Kapp, 2019-11-07 This open access book marks the first historical overview of the autism rights branch of the neurodiversity movement, describing the activities and rationales of key leaders in their own words since it organized into a unique community in 1992. Sandwiched by editorial chapters that include critical analysis, the book contains 19 chapters by 21 authors about the forming of the autistic community and neurodiversity movement, progress in their influence on the broader autism community and field, and their possible threshold of the advocacy establishment. The actions covered are legendary in the autistic community, including manifestos such as “Don’t Mourn for Us”, mailing lists, websites or webpages, conferences, issue campaigns, academic project and journal, a book, and advisory roles. These actions have shifted the landscape toward viewing autism in social terms of human rights and identity to accept, rather than as a medical collection of deficits and symptoms to cure.

autism speaks shock therapy: In a Different Key John Donvan, Caren Zucker, 2016-01-19 PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “Sweeping in scope but with intimate personal stories, this is a deeply moving book about the history, science, and human drama of autism.”—Walter Isaacson, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Code Breaker* “Remarkable . . . A riveting tale about how a seemingly rare childhood disorder became a salient fixture in our cultural landscape.”—The Wall Street Journal (Ten Best Nonfiction Books of the Year) The inspiration for the PBS documentary, *In a Different Key* In 1938, Donald Triplett of Forest, Mississippi, became the first child diagnosed with autism. Beginning with his family’s odyssey, *In a Different Key* tells the extraordinary story of this often misunderstood condition, from the civil rights battles waged by the families of those who have it to the fierce debates among scientists over how to define and treat it. Unfolding over decades, *In a Different Key* is a beautifully rendered history of people determined to secure a place in the world for those with autism—by liberating children from dank institutions, campaigning for their right to go to school, challenging expert opinion on what it means to have autism, and persuading society to accept those who are different. This is also a story of fierce controversies—from the question of whether there is truly an autism “epidemic,” and whether vaccines played a part in it; to scandals involving “facilitated communication,” one of many unsuccessful treatments; to stark disagreements about whether scientists should pursue a cure for autism; to compelling evidence that Hans Asperger, discoverer of the syndrome named after him, participated in the Nazi program that consigned disabled children to death. By turns intimate and panoramic, *In a Different Key* takes us on a journey from an era when families were shamed and children were condemned to institutions to one in which a cadre of people with autism push not simply for inclusion, but for a new understanding of autism: as difference rather than disability.

autism speaks shock therapy: *Each Day I Like It Better* Amy S. F. Lutz, 2014-04-15 In the fall of 2009, Amy Lutz and her husband, Andy, struggled with one of the worst decisions parents could possibly face: whether they could safely keep their autistic ten-year-old son, Jonah, at home any longer. Multiple medication trials, a long procession of behavior modification strategies, and even an almost year-long hospitalization had all failed to control his violent rages. Desperate to stop the attacks that endangered family members, caregivers, and even Jonah himself, Amy and Andy decided to try the controversial procedure of electroconvulsive therapy or ECT. Over the last three

years, Jonah has received 136 treatments. His aggression has greatly diminished, and for the first time Jonah, now fourteen, is moving to a less restricted school. *Each Day I Like It Better* recounts the journeys of Jonah and seven other children and their families (interviewed by the author) in their quests for appropriate educational placements and therapeutic interventions. The author describes their varied, but mostly successful, experiences with ECT. A survey of research on pediatric ECT is incorporated into the narrative, and a foreword by child psychiatrist Dirk Dhossche and ECT researcher and practitioner Charles Kellner explains how ECT works, the side effects patients may experience, and its current use in the treatment of autism, catatonia, and violent behavior in children.

autism speaks shock therapy: Creative Therapy for Children with Autism, ADD, and Asperger's Janet Tubbs, 2012-05-10 It is no easy task to find a teaching technique that can truly change the course of a child with special needs. Thirty years ago, when Janet Tubbs began working with children who had low self-esteem and behavioral problems, she developed a successful program using art, music, and movement. Believing that unconventional children required unconventional therapies, she then took her program one step further—she applied it to children with autism, ADD/ADHD, and Asperger's Syndrome. Her innovative methods and strategies not only worked, but they actually defied the experts. In this new book, Janet Tubbs has put together a powerful teaching tool to help parents, therapists, and teachers work with their children. *Creative Therapy for Children with Autism, ADD, and Asperger's* is divided into two parts. Part One provides an overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders and introduces and explains Janet's novel approach to teaching. Her goal is to balance the child's body, mind, and spirit through proven techniques. Part Two provides a wide variety of exercises, activities, and games that are both fun and effective. Each is designed to reduce hyperactivity, increase and prolong focus, decrease anger, develop fine motor skills, or improve social and verbal skills. All are part of a program created to help these children relate to their environment without fear, anxiety, or discomfort. A child may appear stubborn and difficult, but that doesn't mean that the child isn't intelligent, curious, or creative. With the right treatment, such a child can be reached, taught, and set on the road to improvement. The lessons provided in this book may be just what you and your child have been waiting for.

autism speaks shock therapy: Switched On John Elder Robison, 2016-03-22 An extraordinary memoir about the cutting-edge brain therapy that dramatically changed the life and mind of John Elder Robison, the New York Times bestselling author of *Look Me in the Eye* NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST Imagine spending the first forty years of your life in darkness, blind to the emotions and social signals of other people. Then imagine that someone suddenly switches the lights on. It has long been assumed that people living with autism are born with the diminished ability to read the emotions of others, even as they feel emotion deeply. But what if we've been wrong all this time? What if that "missing" emotional insight was there all along, locked away and inaccessible in the mind? In 2007 John Elder Robison wrote the international bestseller *Look Me in the Eye*, a memoir about growing up with Asperger's syndrome. Amid the blaze of publicity that followed, he received a unique invitation: Would John like to take part in a study led by one of the world's foremost neuroscientists, who would use an experimental new brain therapy known as TMS, or transcranial magnetic stimulation, in an effort to understand and then address the issues at the heart of autism? *Switched On* is the extraordinary story of what happened next. Having spent forty years as a social outcast, misreading others' emotions or missing them completely, John is suddenly able to sense a powerful range of feelings in other people. However, this newfound insight brings unforeseen problems and serious questions. As the emotional ground shifts beneath his feet, John struggles with the very real possibility that choosing to diminish his disability might also mean sacrificing his unique gifts and even some of his closest relationships. *Switched On* is a real-life *Flowers for Algernon*, a fascinating and intimate window into what it means to be neurologically different, and what happens when the world as you know it is upended overnight. Praise for *Switched On* "An eye-opening book with a radical message . . . The transformations [Robison] undergoes throughout the book are astonishing—as foreign and

overwhelming as if he woke up one morning with the visual range of a bee or the auditory prowess of a bat.”—The New York Times “Astonishing, brave . . . reads like a medical thriller and keeps you wondering what will happen next . . . [Robison] takes readers for a ride through the thorny thickets of neuroscience and leaves us wanting more.”—The Washington Post “Fascinating for its insights into Asperger’s and research, this engrossing record will make readers reexamine their preconceptions about this syndrome and the future of brain manipulation.”—Booklist “Like books by Andrew Solomon and Oliver Sacks, *Switched On* offers an opportunity to consider mental processes through a combination of powerful narrative and informative medical context.”—BookPage “A mind-blowing book that will force you to ask deep questions about what is important in life. Would normalizing the brains of those who think differently reduce their motivation for great achievement?”—Temple Grandin, author of *The Autistic Brain* “At the heart of *Switched On* are fundamental questions of who we are, of where our identity resides, of difference and disability and free will, which are brought into sharp focus by Robison’s lived experience.”—Graeme Simsion, author of *The Rosie Effect*

autism speaks shock therapy: All in a Row Alex Oates, 2019-05-03 Laurence likes pizza. Laurence is about to go to school. Laurence thinks it's okay to wee on mummy's pillow. Like any couple, Tamora and Martin have big hopes and dreams. But when your child is autistic, non-verbal, and occasionally violent, ambitions can quickly become a pipe dream. In a household brimming with love, resentment and realisations, meet Tam, Martin and Laurence's carer Gary as they struggle to care for their beloved boy. On the night before social services finally intervenes, who is the victim here? Who was the traitor? And who do you blame when you can no longer cope? Inspired by his experiences working as a carer for over a decade, Alex Oates' new play is a kitchen sink comedy-drama filled with heart... and French Fancies.

autism speaks shock therapy: The Soul of Autism (EasyRead Super Large 24pt Edition) ,
autism speaks shock therapy: The Soul of Autism William Stillman, 2008-12-18 Discover the Spiritual Grace of People With Autism. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes, and cancer ... combined. In *Autism and the God Connection*, William Stillman presented extraordinary accounts of spiritual giftedness in autistic children and adults, persons often deemed intellectually inferior....

autism speaks shock therapy: Authoring Autism M. Remi Yergeau, 2018-01-05 In *Authoring Autism* M. Remi Yergeau defines neurodivergence as an identity—neuroqueerness—rather than an impairment. Using a queer theory framework, Yergeau notes the stereotypes that deny autistic people their humanity and the chance to define themselves while also challenging cognitive studies scholarship and its reification of the neurological passivity of autistics. They also critique early intensive behavioral interventions—which have much in common with gay conversion therapy—and questions the ableist privileging of intentionality and diplomacy in rhetorical traditions. Using storying as their method, they present an alternative view of autistic rhetoricity by foregrounding the cunning rhetorical abilities of autistics and by framing autism as a narrative condition wherein autistics are the best-equipped people to define their experience. Contending that autism represents a queer way of being that simultaneously embraces and rejects the rhetorical, Yergeau shows how autistic people queer the lines of rhetoric, humanity, and agency. In so doing, they demonstrate how an autistic rhetoric requires the reconceptualization of rhetoric’s very essence.

autism speaks shock therapy: Turn Autism Around Mary Lynch Barbera, Ph.D., 2022-03-29 Help remediate—and in some cases eliminate—autism and other developmental delays in young children, even in as little as 15 minutes a day with this toolkit of behavioral practices that can be taught at home. Developmental delays and signs of autism usually show up before 18 months of age, yet children are often not diagnosed until they are 4 or 5 years old. In *Turn Autism Around*, Dr. Mary Barbera explains why parents can't afford to worry and wait in long lines for evaluations and treatment while not knowing how to help their children. She empowers parents, caregivers, and early intervention professionals to regain hope and take back control with simple strategies to dramatically improve outcomes for their children. Dr. Barbera has created a new approach to

teaching kids with developmental delays that uses the science of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) married with a positive, child-friendly methodology that any parent can use—whether or not their child has delays—to learn to teach communication skills, socialization strategies, as well as tackle sleep, eating, potty training, and behavior challenges in a positive, effective, and lasting way. *Turn Autism Around* is the first book of its kind that calls attention to an important fact: parents can make a tremendous impact on their child's development through behavioral practices taught at home, even in as little as 15 minutes a day. Her program shows these autism and developmental delays can be remediated, and in some cases, delays can be caught up altogether, if parents intervene while the child is young. This book is for parents of young children aged one-to-five years who are passionate about helping their child as well as learning how they can change the trajectory of their child's and family's life.

autism speaks shock therapy: *We're Not Broken* Eric Garcia, 2021 This book is a message from autistic people to their parents, friends, teachers, coworkers and doctors showing what life is like on the spectrum. It's also my love letter to autistic people. For too long, we have been forced to navigate a world where all the road signs are written in another language. With a reporter's eye and an insider's perspective, Eric Garcia shows what it's like to be autistic across America. Garcia began writing about autism because he was frustrated by the media's coverage of it; the myths that the disorder is caused by vaccines, the narrow portrayals of autistic people as white men working in Silicon Valley. His own life as an autistic person didn't look anything like that. He is Latino, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, and works as a journalist covering politics in Washington D.C. Garcia realized he needed to put into writing what so many autistic people have been saying for years; autism is a part of their identity, they don't need to be fixed. In *We're Not Broken*, Garcia uses his own life as a springboard to discuss the social and policy gaps that exist in supporting those on the spectrum. From education to healthcare, he explores how autistic people wrestle with systems that were not built with them in mind. At the same time, he shares the experiences of all types of autistic people, from those with higher support needs, to autistic people of color, to those in the LGBTQ community. In doing so, Garcia gives his community a platform to articulate their own needs, rather than having others speak for them, which has been the standard for far too long.

autism speaks shock therapy: *Doctors of Deception* Linda Andre, 2009-02-04 Mechanisms and standards exist to safeguard the health and welfare of the patient, but for electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)—used to treat depression and other mental illnesses—such approval methods have failed. Prescribed to thousands over the years, public relations as opposed to medical trials have paved the way for this popular yet dangerous and controversial treatment option. *Doctors of Deception* is a revealing history of ECT (or shock therapy) in the United States, told here for the first time. Through the examination of court records, medical data, FDA reports, industry claims, her own experience as a patient of shock therapy, and the stories of others, Andre exposes tactics used by the industry to promote ECT as a responsible treatment when all the scientific evidence suggested otherwise. As early as the 1940s, scientific literature began reporting incidences of human and animal brain damage resulting from ECT. Despite practitioner modifications, deleterious effects on memory and cognition persisted. Rather than discontinue use of ECT, the \$5-billion-per-year shock industry crafted a public relations campaign to improve ECT's image. During the 1970s and 1980s, psychiatry's PR efforts misled the government, the public, and the media into believing that ECT had made a comeback and was safe. Andre carefully intertwines stories of ECT survivors and activists with legal, ethical, and scientific arguments to address issues of patient rights and psychiatric treatment. Echoing current debates about the use of psychopharmaceutical interventions shown to have debilitating side-effects, she candidly presents ECT as a problematic therapy demanding greater scrutiny, tighter control, and full disclosure about its long-term cognitive effects.

autism speaks shock therapy: *Autism and the God Connection* William Stillman, 2006-04-01 Everyone who seeks a more compassionate and wise life will benefit from this wonderful, insightful, and beautiful book. — Gary Zukav, author of *The Seat of the Soul* One in 68 US children have an

autism spectrum disorder, and with countless parenting books helping families care for children with special needs, *Autism and the God Connection* is the crucial, spiritual look at understanding a child with autism. Helping parents realize their child's unique spirit and reaffirm that every one of us is a blessing, this is an inspirational resource to discovering the intellect, beauty, and complexities of children with autism. Through countless interviews, William Stillman documents extraordinary examples of spiritual giftedness, and boldly challenges our traditionally held beliefs about people with disabilities. Readers will discover hope, comfort, inspiration, and love through these affirming anecdotes of ordinary families.

autism speaks shock therapy: *Louder Than Words* Jenny McCarthy, 2007 The celebrity author of the best-selling *Belly Laughs* and *Baby Laughs* presents a frank account of her experiences as a mother of an autistic son, describing her efforts to manage the condition's symptoms while sorting through conflicting medical theories.

autism speaks shock therapy: *NeuroTribes* Steve Silberman, 2015-08-25 This New York Times–bestselling book upends conventional thinking about autism and suggests a broader model for acceptance, understanding, and full participation in society for people who think differently. “Beautifully told, humanizing, important.”—The New York Times Book Review “Breathtaking.”—The Boston Globe “Epic and often shocking.”—Chicago Tribune WINNER OF THE SAMUEL JOHNSON PRIZE FOR NONFICTION AND THE CALIFORNIA BOOK AWARD What is autism? A lifelong disability, or a naturally occurring form of cognitive difference akin to certain forms of genius? In truth, it is all of these things and more—and the future of our society depends on our understanding it. Wired reporter Steve Silberman unearths the secret history of autism, long suppressed by the same clinicians who became famous for discovering it, and finds surprising answers to the crucial question of why the number of diagnoses has soared in recent years. Going back to the earliest days of autism research, Silberman offers a gripping narrative of Leo Kanner and Hans Asperger, the research pioneers who defined the scope of autism in profoundly different ways; he then goes on to explore the game-changing concept of neurodiversity. *NeuroTribes* considers the idea that neurological differences such as autism, dyslexia, and ADHD are not errors of nature or products of the toxic modern world, but the result of natural variations in the human genome. This groundbreaking book will reshape our understanding of the history, meaning, function, and implications of neurodiversity in our world.

autism speaks shock therapy: *The Art of Autism* Debra Hosseini, 2012-03-21

autism speaks shock therapy: *Parenting Girls on the Autism Spectrum* Eileen Riley-Hall, 2012-04-15 This book is a celebration of all the wonderful and unexpected gifts that having a daughter on the autism spectrum can bring to a family. Each chapter offers encouragement and guidance on issues such as school, friendships, meltdowns, special gifts, family relationships, therapies and interventions. Having daughters on the spectrum presents unique and rewarding challenges and this book is packed with friendly advice and real life examples from a mother who has experienced it all first hand. This positive, upbeat book is guaranteed to offer support to parents, grandparents and family members, as well as providing educators and anyone else working in a supporting role with an insight into what life is like for girls on the spectrum and their parents.

autism speaks shock therapy: *Healing the New Childhood Epidemics: Autism, ADHD, Asthma, and Allergies* Kenneth Bock, Cameron Stauth, 2008-04-29 A comprehensive program that targets all four of the 4-A epidemics: autism, ADHD, asthma, and allergies “An easy-to-read commonsense guide to beneficial biomedical treatments.”—Temple Grandin Doctors have generally overlooked the connections among the 4-A disorders. For years the medical establishment has considered autism medically untreatable and utterly incurable, and has limited ADHD treatment mainly to symptom suppression. Dr. Kenneth Bock, a leading medical innovator, along with his colleagues, have discovered a solution that goes to the root of the problem. They have found that modern toxins, nutritional deficiencies, metabolic imbalances, genetic vulnerabilities, and assaults on the immune and gastrointestinal systems trigger most of the symptoms of the 4-A disorders, resulting in frequent misdiagnosis and untold mysteries. Dr. Bock’s remarkable Healing Program is

an innovative biomedical approach that has changed the lives of more than a thousand children. Drawn from medical research and based on years of clinical success, this program offers a safe, sensible solution that is individualized to each child to help remedy the root causes. Dr. Bock also shares the dramatic true stories of parents and children that will inspire you to change the life of your own child. Hope is at last within reach.

autism speaks shock therapy: Thinking Person's Guide to Autism Jennifer Byde Myers, Shannon Des Roches Rosa, Liz Ditz, Emily Willingham, 2011 Thinking Person's Guide to Autism (TPGA) is the resource we wish we'd had when autism first became part of our lives: a one-stop source for carefully curated, evidence-based information from autistics, autism parents, and autism professionals.

autism speaks shock therapy: War on Autism Anne McGuire, 2016-04-28 War on Autism examines autism as a historically specific and power-laden cultural phenomenon that has much to teach about the social organization of a neoliberal western modernity. Bringing together a variety of interpretive theoretical perspectives including critical disability studies, queer and critical race theory, and cultural studies, the book analyzes the social significance and productive effects of contemporary discourses of autism as these are produced and circulated in the field of autism advocacy. Anne McGuire reveals how in the field of autism advocacy, autism often appears as an abbreviation, its multiple meanings distilled to various red flag warnings in awareness campaigns, bulleted biomedical facts in information pamphlets, or worrisome statistics in policy reports. She analyzes the relationships between these fragmentary enactments of autism and traces their continuities to reveal an underlying, powerful, and ubiquitous logic of violence that casts autism as a pathological threat that advocacy must work to eliminate. Such logic, McGuire contends, functions to delimit the role of the good autism advocate to one who is positioned against autism. Book jacket.

autism speaks shock therapy: My Child Has Autism, Now What? Susan Larson Kidd, Susan Larson-Kidd, 2011-06-15 Your child has autism - four small words with the power to leave parents feeling helpless, overwhelmed, and confused. This concise, no-nonsense book will enable parents to regain control of the situation and take the first practical steps towards a calm and happy life with their newly-diagnosed child. Dr. Larson Kidd's approach draws from the vast amount of information available on parenting a child with autism and distils it into ten manageable steps. It covers the key aspects of life with a child on the autism spectrum, including the basics such as sleeping, eating, and toileting, through adapting the home, creating routines, and exploring therapy. Ready-to-implement strategies are outlined simply and clearly, and are firmly grounded in the author's extensive experience of supporting children with autism. This practical book will be essential and empowering reading for every parent whose child has recently been diagnosed with autism or for parents still struggling with where to begin to help their child.

autism speaks shock therapy: Unstrange Minds Roy Richard Grinker, 2008-07-31 A father's inspiring portrait of his daughter informs this classic reassessment of the epidemic of autism. When Isabel Grinker was diagnosed with autism in 1994, it occurred in only about 3 of every 10,000 children. Within ten years, rates had skyrocketed. Some scientists reported rates as high as 1 in 150. The media had declared autism an epidemic. *Unstrange Minds* documents the global quest of Isabel's father, renowned anthropologist Roy Richard Grinker, to discover the surprising truth about why autism is so much more common today. In fact, there is no autism epidemic. Rather, we are experiencing an increase in autism diagnoses, and Grinker shows that the identification and treatment of autism depends on culture just as much as it does on science. Filled with moving stories and informed by the latest science, *Unstrange Minds* is a powerful testament to a father's search for the truth.

autism speaks shock therapy: The Prodigy's Cousin Joanne Ruthsatz, Kimberly Stephens, 2016-03-01 We all know the autistic genius stereotypes. The absentminded professor with untied shoelaces. The geeky Silicon Valley programmer who writes bulletproof code but can't get a date. But there is another set of (tiny) geniuses whom you would never add to those ranks—child prodigies. We mostly know them as the chatty and charming tykes who liven up daytime TV with

violin solos and engaging banter. These kids aren't autistic, and there has never been any kind of scientific connection between autism and prodigy. Until now. Over the course of her career, psychologist Joanne Ruthsatz has quietly assembled the largest-ever research sample of these children. Their accomplishments are epic. One could reproduce radio tunes by ear on a toy guitar at two years old. Another was a thirteen-year-old cooking sensation. And what Ruthsatz's investigation revealed is nothing short of astonishing. Though the prodigies aren't autistic, many have autistic family members. Each prodigy has an extraordinary memory and a keen eye for detail—well-known but often-overlooked strengths associated with autism. Ruthsatz and her daughter and coauthor, Kimberly Stephens, now propose a startling possibility: What if the abilities of child prodigies stem from a genetic link with autism? And could prodigies—children who have many of the strengths of autism but few of the challenges—be the key to a long-awaited autism breakthrough? In *The Prodigy's Cousin*, Ruthsatz and Stephens narrate the poignant stories of the children they have studied, including that of a two-year-old who loved to spell words like “algorithm” and “confederation,” a six-year-old painter who churned out masterpieces faster than her parents could hang them, and a typically developing thirteen-year-old who smacked his head against a church floor and woke up a music prodigy. This inspiring tale of extraordinary children, indomitable parents, and a researcher's unorthodox hunch is essential reading for anyone interested in the brain and human potential. Ruthsatz and Stephens take us from the prodigies' homes to the depths of the autism archives to the cutting edge of genetics research, all while upending our understanding of what makes exceptional talent possible.

autism speaks shock therapy: Bioinformational Philosophy and Postdigital Knowledge Ecologies Michael A. Peters, Petar Jandrić, Sarah Hayes, 2022-04-22 The book presents a cross-disciplinary overview of critical issues at the intersections of biology, information, and society. Based on theories of bioinformationalism, viral modernity, the postdigital condition, and others, this book explores two inter-related questions: Which new knowledge ecologies are emerging? Which philosophies and research approaches do they require? The book argues that the 20th century focus on machinery needs to be replaced, at least partially, by a focus on a better understanding of living systems and their interactions with technology at all scales – from viruses, through to human beings, to the Earth's ecosystem. This change of direction cannot be made by a simple relocation of focus and/or funding from one discipline to another. In our age of the Anthropocene, (human and planetary) biology cannot be thought of without (digital) technology and society. Today's curious bioinformational mix of blurred and messy relationships between physics and biology, old and new media, humanism and posthumanism, knowledge capitalism and bio-informational capitalism defines the postdigital condition and creates new knowledge ecologies. The book presents scholarly research defining new knowledge ecologies built upon emerging forms of scientific communication, big data deluge, and opacity of algorithmic operations. Many of these developments can be approached using the concept of viral modernity, which applies to viral technologies, codes and ecosystems in information, publishing, education, and emerging knowledge (journal) systems. It is within these overlapping theories and contexts, that this book explores new bioinformational philosophies and postdigital knowledge ecologies.

autism speaks shock therapy: Neurodiverse Relationships Joanna Stevenson, 2019-07-18 Comprised of the accounts of twelve heterosexual couples in which the man is on the Autism Spectrum, this book invites both partners to discuss their own perspectives of different key issues, including anxiety, empathy, employment and socialising. Autism expert Tony Attwood contributes a commentary and a question and answer section for each of the twelve accounts. The first book of its kind to provide perspectives from both sides of a relationship on a variety of different topics, *Neurodiverse Relationships* is the perfect companion for couples in neurodiverse relationships who are trying to understand one another better.

autism speaks shock therapy: A Full Life with Autism Chantal Sicile-Kira, Jeremy Sicile-Kira, 2012-03-27 A guide for helping our children lead meaningful and independent lives as they reach adulthood In the next five years, hundreds of thousands of children with autism spectrum

disorder will reach adulthood. And while diagnosis and treatment for children has improved in recent years, parents want to know: What happens to my child when I am no longer able to care for or assist him? Autism expert Chantal Sicile-Kira and her son Jeremy offer real solutions to a host of difficult questions, including how young adults of different abilities and their parents can: *navigate this new economy where adult service resources are scarce *cope with the difficulties of living apart from the nuclear family *find, and keep a job that provides meaning, stability and an income *create and sustain fulfilling relationships

autism speaks shock therapy: *Toxic Psychiatry* Peter R. Breggin, 2015-12-22 Prozac, Xanax, Halcion, Haldol, Lithium. These psychiatric drugs--and dozens of other short-term solutions--are being prescribed by doctors across the country as a quick antidote to depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and other psychiatric problems. But at what cost? In this searing, myth-shattering exposé, psychiatrist Peter R. Breggin, M.D., breaks through the hype and false promises surrounding the New Psychiatry and shows how dangerous, even potentially brain-damaging, many of its drugs and treatments are. He asserts that: psychiatric drugs are spreading an epidemic of long-term brain damage; mental illnesses like schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety disorder have never been proven to be genetic or even physical in origin, but are under the jurisdiction of medical doctors; millions of schoolchildren, housewives, elderly people, and others are labeled with medical diagnoses and treated with authoritarian interventions, rather than being patiently listened to, understood, and helped. *Toxic Psychiatry* sounds a passionate, much-needed wake-up call for everyone who plays a part, active or passive, in America's ever-increasing dependence on harmful psychiatric drugs.

autism speaks shock therapy: *The Complete Guide to Autism Treatments* Sabrina Karen Freeman, 2007 *The Complete Guide to Autism Treatments* was inspired by parents of children afflicted with autism. After speaking with several thousands of parents about various treatments and answering similar questions over and over again, Dr. Freeman realized that parents need a clear way - a guide - to help make appropriate treatment decisions for their child. To this end, Dr. Freeman gives her scientific evaluation of most of the major and minor autism treatments available today, and then personalizes the analysis by telling the reader whether or not she would use the treatment on her own child. In other words, at the end of the day, how did she apply her understanding of the science to her own child? With this book, it is Dr. Freeman's sincere hope that everyone will be able to evaluate all the current and future autism treatments available. It is crucial to be able to ask the right questions and find the flaws in the science behind every purported treatment, or to find the evidence, where it exists, that the treatment is effective. At a minimum, understanding the scientific method will protect thousands of children from quackery and, hopefully, provide parents and professionals with the tools to discern those treatments that are effective for children affected with autism.

autism speaks shock therapy: *Mad in America* Robert Whitaker, 2019-09-10 An updated edition of the classic history of schizophrenia in America, which gives voice to generations of patients who suffered through cures that only deepened their suffering and impaired their hope of recovery. Schizophrenics in the United States currently fare worse than patients in the world's poorest countries. In *Mad in America*, medical journalist Robert Whitaker argues that modern treatments for the severely mentally ill are just old medicine in new bottles, and that we as a society are deeply deluded about their efficacy. The widespread use of lobotomies in the 1920s and 1930s gave way in the 1950s to electroshock and a wave of new drugs. In what is perhaps Whitaker's most damning revelation, *Mad in America* examines how drug companies in the 1980s and 1990s skewed their studies to prove that new antipsychotic drugs were more effective than the old, while keeping patients in the dark about dangerous side effects. A haunting, deeply compassionate book -- updated with a new introduction and prologue bringing in the latest medical treatments and trends -- *Mad in America* raises important questions about our obligations to the mad, the meaning of insanity, and what we value most about the human mind.

autism speaks shock therapy: *Champion* Craig Johnson, 2018-04-03 A Celebration of

Everyone Who Fulfills Their Purpose Through Unexpected Challenges Until two years of age, Craig and Samantha's son Connor was just like other kids—playful, verbal, and affectionate. Then everything changed. He stopped talking, displayed behavioral problems, and withdrew into his own world. The official diagnosis—autism. Faced with seemingly insurmountable odds, Craig and Samantha refused to believe a meaningful life for Connor was impossible. God confirmed their faith by revealing to Craig that Connor would one day touch the lives of thousands of people around the world. Craig and Samantha held that unlikely promise in their hearts during the agonizing years ahead. *Champion* is a spellbinding chronicle of the twists and turns of Connor's journey—guided by his parent's steadfast hope in God's promises. Through the unexpected breaking of their spirits, the Holy Spirit was poured out, culminating in a miracle that has launched a global ministry to the disabled.

autism speaks shock therapy: Life, Animated Ron Suskind, 2016-07-12 Now an award winning motion picture! Imagine being trapped inside a Disney movie and having to learn about life mostly from animated characters dancing across a screen of color. A fantasy? A nightmare? This is the real-life story of Owen Suskind, the son of the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ron Suskind and his wife, Cornelia. An autistic boy who couldn't speak for years, Owen memorized dozens of Disney movies, turned them into a language to express love and loss, kinship, brotherhood. The family was forced to become animated characters, communicating with him in Disney dialogue and song; until they all emerge, together, revealing how, in darkness, we all literally need stories to survive. This edition has been updated with additional material from the Suskind family.

autism speaks shock therapy: Accessing the Healing Power of the Vagus Nerve Stanley Rosenberg, 2017-12-19 The bestselling guide to the vagus nerve, now in 20+ languages: unlock the self-healing power of Stephen Porges's Polyvagal Theory Vagus exercises for reducing anxiety, healing trauma, and rebalancing your autonomic nervous system This comprehensive guide offers an easy-to-understand overview of the vagus nerve—and helps you unlock your body's innate capacity to heal from stress, trauma, anxiety, and injury. Dr. Stanley Rosenberg, PhD, dispels long-held myths about the autonomic nervous system (ANS) and offers up-to-date research on how our physical health, emotional wellness, and the vagus nerve are all interconnected. Most importantly, he shows how these insights can help you heal your ANS—and live a less stressed, more balanced, and emotionally regulated life. This book offers: An in-depth overview of Stephen Porges's Polyvagal Theory Step-by-step self-help techniques for regulating the vagus nerve Vagus exercises to relieve emotional, psychological, and physical symptoms Real-life case studies and stories from the author's clinical practice Insights into the vagus nerve's role in social behavior An overview of what happens in our bodies when we get stuck in stress states—and how to heal them Simple, research-backed recommendations for initiating deep relaxation, improving sleep, healing from trauma, and stimulating recovery from illness and injury Accessing the Healing Power of the Vagus Nerve is written for therapists, bodyworkers, trauma survivors, parents, and anyone struggling with chronic stress. Grounded in neurobiology research, clinical stories, and easy-to-follow exercises, this book gives you the tools to bring your body back into a state of safety, balance, and optimal functioning.

autism speaks shock therapy: Love Anthony Lisa Genova, 2012-09-27 'Remember how you couldn't put down *Still Alice*? Well, clear your schedule—because you're going to feel the same way' Jodi Picoult From the bestselling author of *Still Alice* and *Every Note Played* comes a heartfelt novel about friendship and a mother coping with the loss of her autistic son. Olivia Donatelli's dream of a 'normal' life was shattered when her son, Anthony, was diagnosed with autism at age three. He didn't speak. He hated to be touched. He almost never made eye contact. And just as Olivia was starting to realise that happiness and autism could coexist, Anthony died. Now she's alone in a cottage on Nantucket, separated from her husband, desperate to understand the meaning of her son's short life, when a chance encounter with another woman facing her own loss brings Anthony alive again for Olivia in a most unexpected way. In a piercing story about motherhood, love and female friendship, Lisa Genova offers us two unforgettable women on the verge of change who discover the small but exuberant voice that helps them both find the answers they need. Fans of *The*

Reason I Jump and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time will love Lisa Genova's story: always authentic and utterly moving.

autism speaks shock therapy: *The Reckoning* Andrew Solomon, 2014-05-26 First published in The New Yorker, "Solomon tells the story of Peter Lanza, the father of Adam Lanza, the Sandy Hook Elementary shooter. Read it—it's moving, brave and just profoundly human and sad....There aren't any answers. And that's what makes this all so impossible, and Solomon's journalism so essential" (Salon.com). "Both parents loved Adam. Neither parent imagined or wanted their child's horrific end. This is why what Peter Lanza did by sharing his story with Andrew Solomon is so important. Lanza's story fills important gaps in our understanding of how a beloved child became a killer—and reminds us as a society that we have an obligation to help families and children before they find themselves on irreversible paths of violence" (Time).

autism speaks shock therapy: *'Curing Queers'* Tommy Dickinson, 2016-02-11 Drawing on a rich array of source materials including previously unseen, fascinating (and often quite moving) oral histories, archival and news media sources, 'Curing queers' examines the plight of men who were institutionalised in British mental hospitals to receive 'treatment' for homosexuality and transvestism, and the perceptions and actions of the men and women who nursed them. The book begins in 1935 with the first official report on the use of aversion therapy to combat homosexual desire and continues until 1974, when the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its diagnostic manual as a category of psychiatric disorder. It thereby covers a critical period in British queer history during which the reigning public and professional discourse surrounding homosexuality shifted from crime to sickness to tolerance. The majority of nurses followed orders in administering treatment in spite of the zero success-rate in 'straightening out' queer men, but a small number surreptitiously defied their superiors by engaging in fascinating subversive behaviours. This book provides an in-depth examination of both groups, and offers some intriguing insights into the hidden gay lives of some of the nurses themselves, and the inevitable tension between their own identities and desires and the treatments they administered to others. 'Curing queers' makes a significant and substantial contribution to the history of nursing and the history of sexuality, bringing together two sub-disciplines that combine only infrequently. Therefore, it will be of interest to scholars and students in nursing, history, gender studies, health care ethics and law, as well as the general reader.

autism speaks shock therapy: Applied Behavior Analysis for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Johnny L. Matson, 2009-09-18 Autism was once thought of as a rare condition, until the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network released the statistic that about 1 in every 150 eight-year-old children in various areas across the United States is afflicted by an autism spectrum disorder, or ASD. This news led to a dramatic expansion of research into autism spectrum disorders and to the emergence of applied behavior analysis (ABA) as the preferred method of treatment, even among prescribing practitioners. *Applied Behavioral Analysis for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders* ably synthesizes research data and trends with best-practice interventions into a comprehensive, state-of-the-art resource. Within its chapters, leading experts review current ABA literature in depth; identify interventions most relevant to children across the autism spectrum; and discuss potential developments in these core areas: Assessment methods, from functional assessment to single case research designs. Treatment methods, including reinforcement, replacement behaviors, and other effective strategies. The role of the differential diagnosis in ABA treatment planning. Specific deficit areas: communication, social skills, stereotypies/rituals. Target behaviors, such as self-injury, aggression, adaptive and self-help problems. ASD-related training concerns, including maintenance and transition issues, and parent training programs. This volume is a vital resource for researchers, graduate students, and professionals in clinical child and school psychology as well as the related fields of education and mental health.

autism speaks shock therapy: A Pair of Miracles Karla Akins, 2017 A parent's gripping journey of awareness, acceptance, and appreciation of her two boys dealing with significant

challenges brought on by autism. --Stephen Mark Shore, EdD When Karla Akins hoped that her autistic sons could learn to read and function independently, doctors warned her that those expectations would never be met. She set out to prove that, despite those warnings, all things are possible through God. Laced with humor and compassion, *A Pair of Miracles* is the heartwarming story of her journey rearing adopted twin sons, each diagnosed with autism and fetal alcohol disorder. This is more than a moving biography from a mom on the front lines, however. It is a powerful tool, full of practical help for parents, educators, and church members working with children who have intellectual disabilities, speech impairments, and other limitations on the autism spectrum. It is also a challenge to the church to welcome and celebrate all the members of their congregation, no matter their abilities. Thanks to Karla's determination, faith, and unconditional love--and contrary to the doctors' predictions--her adult twins are now able to function independently in many ways. They help their dad install pools, do carpentry work, and serve in the church as ushers, sound engineers, and children's ministry workers. For parents seeking hope, answers, and peace, Karla leads the way to all three down a path she's already been.

autism speaks shock therapy: Overcoming Autism Lynn Kern Koegel, Ph.D., Claire LaZebnik, 2014-03-25 There have been huge advances in our ability to diagnose autism and in the development of effective interventions that can change children's lives. In this extraordinary book, Lynn Kern Koegel, a leading clinician, researcher, and cofounder of the renowned Autism Research Center at the University of California at Santa Barbara, combines her cutting-edge expertise with the everyday perspectives of Claire LaZebnik, a writer whose experience with a son with autism provides a rare window into the disorder. Together, they draw on the highly effective "pivotal response" approach developed at the center to provide concrete ways of improving the symptoms of autism and the emotional struggles that surround it, while reminding readers never to lose sight of the humor that lurks in the disability's quirkiness or the importance of enjoying your child. From the shock of diagnosis to the step-by-step work with verbal communication, social interaction, self-stimulation, meltdowns, fears, and more, the answers are here-in a book that is as warm and nurturing as it is authoritative.

autism speaks shock therapy: Electroconvulsive Therapy in Children and Adolescents Neera Ghaziuddin, Garry Walter, 2013-12 This is a pioneering book about the use of ECT in adolescents who are diagnosed with severe, disabling psychiatric disorders or fail conventional treatment. Included are a review of the literature, firsthand experience of the authors and case descriptions making it an invaluable guide to treatment.

autism speaks shock therapy: Shouting at Leaves Jennifer Msumba, 2021-11-11 I have lived through some horrible experiences, all in the name of treatment. But there was one thing I never let those people steal from me, and that was my spirit. *Shouting At Leaves* takes the reader on the journey of its autistic writer from toddlerhood to adulthood. With humor and grace, this book walks you through the mind and experiences of Jennifer as she navigates the world of family, friendships and school life. It places you with her as she is confined in the mental health system, including the infamous Judge Rotenberg Center, and you will cheer her on as she not only survives but takes on a new life of freedom and joy in the end. She shares stories, tips, and strategies to equip you to be your own champion, and to build around you people who are loyal and true.

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