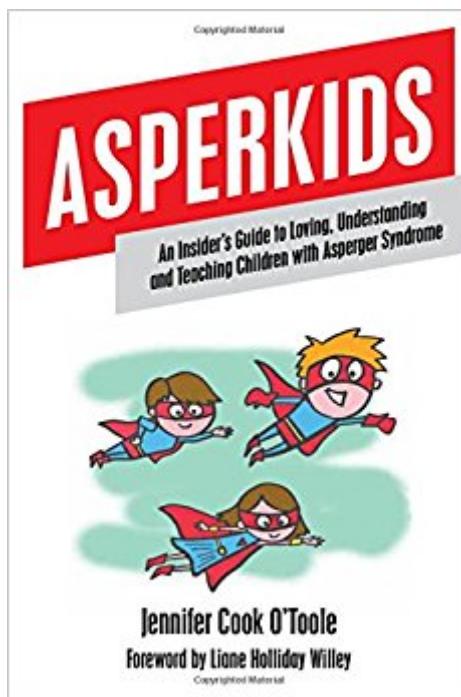


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# Asperkids: An Insider's Guide To Loving, Understanding And Teaching Children With Asperger Syndrome



## Synopsis

"ASPERKIDS" was named to the TOP 12 BOOKS TO READ IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS DIAGNOSED WITH ASD by Autism Asperger DigestAuthor Jennifer Cook O'Toole has been awarded the 2012 Temple Grandin Award, for outstanding accomplishment and contribution to [your] family and community. Dr. Grandin, who established this award, was named to Time magazine's list of Top 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2010.Ms. O'Toole has also just been honored by GRASP (the Global and Regional Asperger Syndrome Partnership) with the organization's 2012 Distinguished Spectrumite Medal. As a parent, a teacher and an Aspie herself, Jennifer Cook O'Toole provides a unique insider's look into Asperger Syndrome. She shows how to help children on the spectrum by understanding how they think and exploiting their special interests to promote learning. Her strategies work because she thinks like the children that she teaches.This book is full of original and effective methods for engaging with children with Asperger Syndrome. The author discusses theory of mind, the necessity for concrete forms of communication, and ways to inspire imagination through sensorial experiences. In particular she explores the untapped power of special interests, explaining how to harness these interests to encourage academic, social and emotional growth.Affirming that different doesn't mean defective, this book offers the insight and guidance that parents and professionals need to connect with the Asperkids in their life and get them excited about learning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was actually a good book for an educator to read, but it was not what I was looking for. My son has not been diagnosed but I suspect that he has Asperger's. However, he has never had any issues with learning and this book is generally about teaching children with Asperger's. I needed more information on how to help him relate socially and how to show him that at eleven he should know how to tie his shoes, or wipe his face when it has chocolate on it. He just doesn't care about these things, but I think they can be one of the many things alienating him socially, but these sorts of things are not addressed in this book.

If you are looking for a great resource on Aspergers, this is the book to read. It's written in such a way that you feel almost like you are sitting with Mrs. Cook O'Toole. She answers the questions most parents with a newly diagnosed child ask in a way that is easy to understand and relatable. (Especially if you are a "neurotypical" parent to an Aspie) For me personally, I found the advice, suggestions, hints, and insight to be a breath of fresh air. It was nice to have this topic covered in a way that wasn't so impersonal and clinical as other books I've read on the topic. Also, being that the author is an Aspie, herself, gave her credibility in a way I haven't felt for other authors on the topic. I also recommend this book if you have a child with any hyper-focusing issues such as ADD/ADHD, hyper-anxiety, OCD, etc as I've found a lot of the suggestions in this book can be very helpful for kids and parents (teachers, caregivers, counselors, doctors, the list can go on and on here) as well. I've seen my son have more "aha!" moments and less frustration ever since putting some of the suggested techniques into effect at home. Even his neurotypical sister is trying to emulate them which I think will help them have a closer relationship as they grow. I highly recommend reading Asperkids.

This book is okay for me. I never finished it because I found it was just not my style. I had been looking for a book explaining my son, who is an aspie. I found it hard to relate to Jennifer and I think it might be because I'm not an aspie. Her writing style is clearly taken from the point of one because she is one. Even more to the point, there was a lot of focus on her and her family. As many parents of kids on the ASD know, NOT ONE child is the same. Her examples were so specific to her children I found it hard to relate. I will be researching other books that I might relate to better. That being said, she's clearly smart and a gifted writer. Others would find this spot on for what they're looking for.

Jennifer O'Toole's book provides real inspiration for parents and teachers. This is a hands-on

resource that is a source of comfort, but it is also a helpful educational aid. As a teacher, I appreciated all the great classroom ideas, in addition to the many recommended resources, like websites, books and educational supply companies that were new to me. O'Toole's book provides an intimate view of the Aspie experience from one who really knows because she experiences it first-hand every day. This is her life, her husband's life, and the life of her family. Therefore, her book provides the reader with concrete suggestions that can enrich the life of any Aspie. O'Toole not only shares her intelligence and creativity, but she also provides a role model of a person sensitively dealing with her own diagnosis and that of her children. This is an impressive debut of an author we will hopefully hear more from.

Since my son was a toddler, I have worked hard to understand him and be able to connect with him on a level that worked for us. As a result, at 12 years old, we have a great parent-son and teacher-student relationship. Over the years, in an attempt to be the best parent I could to my Aspie, I have read as many books on Asperger's Syndrome as I could get my hands on. Some made me confused, some made me bored, some gave me insight and some made me angry. It wasn't until I read Jennifer Cook O'Toole's book, *Asperkids*, that I was fully able to truly understand my son. Throughout the book, I laughed, cried with understanding and joy, scribbled notes furiously, and rested in the comfort of knowing that I wasn't alone. I shared many insights from the book - both humorous and poignant - with my Asperkid and we were able to connect together on an even deeper level. Thank you so much, Jennifer, for writing this book! I share it with everyone who interacts with my son, and those who are journeying through this diagnosis as well. My wish is that every teacher would read this book so that they may better understand the aspies, known and unknown, in their classrooms.

Imagine a mass of energy with flaming red hair and Irish passion for whatever occupies her attention at the moment. That's Jennifer O'Toole. Now imagine all that energy and passion directed to understanding this thing we call Asperger's, to being one, to being a parent as one, and to understanding children who are thus blessed, and finally how to navigate all that. That is *Asperkids*. Her writing style is at once richly informative and easily accessible, kind to the reader. She shares not only insights about Aspies, but the unique kind of insights that only Aspies can generate about themselves and others. Still, the most apt description of this book is its subtitle. It is indeed an insider's experience, perception, and understanding. It is about teaching as well. But as she has ordered the description in that subtitle, it is first and foremost about a deep compassion for

these kids. And don't let her fool you. Here's an inside secret about the book: It's not just about kids.

\*wink\*

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