



# **Engaging Autism: Helping Children Relate, Communicate and Think with the DIR Floortime Approach (A Merloyd Lawrence Book)**

*Stanley I. Greenspan , Serena Wieder*

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## **Engaging Autism: Helping Children Relate, Communicate and Think with the DIR Floortime Approach (A Merloyd Lawrence Book) Stanley I. Greenspan , Serena Wieder**

The inspiring success of Dr. Stanley Greenspan's unique approach to autism and ASD (autistic spectrum disorders) is known to grateful parents and to professionals throughout the world. Now at last his highly effective and influential program is presented in one clear and accessible volume. A number of innovative, exciting features distinguish Greenspan's approach to autism: First, his program has demonstrated that children with signs of autism or autistic spectrum disorders do not have a fixed, limited potential, but in many cases can join their peers and lead full, healthy lives, emotionally and intellectually. Secondly, his approach can be applied at a very early stage, when signs of autism first appear. Thus, the hope of *preventing* the full onset of autism becomes a real possibility. Third, the approach empowers the entire family to promote their child's development throughout each day. Also, the DIR Floortime approach guides the efforts of speech pathologists, occupational therapists, and educators to work with the family and builds on the latest research on the development of the mind and brain. As cases of autism continue to rise worldwide, Dr. Greenspan's extremely successful Floortime approach is producing very promising results that could one day stem the tide against this dread disorder. No one involved in the care of children with autism, parent or professional, can afford to be without this landmark work.

## **Engaging Autism: Helping Children Relate, Communicate and Think with the DIR Floortime Approach (A Merloyd Lawrence Book) Details**

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# **From Reader Review Engaging Autism: Helping Children Relate, Communicate and Think with the DIR Floortime Approach (A Merloyd Lawrence Book) for online ebook**

## **Jennifer Plunk says**

A must read for parents of kids on the autism spectrum and educators as well. This has been life-changing for our family.

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## **Kate says**

I'm a big fan of Greenspan, and of the floortime approach. Floortime has really helped us break through with our daughter, diagnosed with Autism at age 2. We've been very proactive... providing her with speech, developmental and occupational therapy, as well as enrolling her in a developmental preschool. That said, I still believe floortime to be the greatest source of progress for our daughter. I know not all autistic children have the same struggles, and strengths, but this worked for us!

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## **Monica K. Cochran says**

Re- read this book for the 3rd time this year! Have lots of annotations and sticky notes that I refer to so often! Highly recommend!!

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## **Stephanie says**

I didn't finish this book but I really liked its approach of child-led interactions to build connection.

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## **Melissa Wilson says**

I liked the book, but there was a lot to it that I have tried with my daughter that didn't have an effect. These are the most important part of the book that was helpful for me:

Engaging with your son/daughter.

How to Engage with your son/daughter.

Desire to communicate -using gestures.

Limiting tv time

Imaginative play

ages 3-5 start to learn about social rules with other children their age

turning a child's weaknesses into strengths.

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## **Errobins says**

This book represents a paradigm shift in how autism is viewed and treated. I was trained as an ABA therapist in college, and when I went on to have a son who I suspected of having autism I was flummoxed to discover ABA really didn't work that well. Through trial and error I've found that we had already been doing a lot of the basics of the Floortime approach and getting results from it, but this gave us something to build off of.

This is not some easy one shot pie in the sky book about a cure. Autism is complex, and this book is similarly complex. It looks at what we know about brain development and teaches a new way to interact with children with autism to maximize their development. Unfortunately, the topic is so broad that more than likely it won't troubleshoot the particular problems you are experiencing raising a child with autism, but it gives a starting place and lays the foundation.

Currently working on locating a DIR therapist for mentoring with this, and looking forward to the results we'll see.

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## **Overrated Parenting says**

A very dense, practical book, this is not something you're going to read for fun. However the methods of play that they teach and advocate, I have found to be quite effective. We have had a lot of success, and my son really enjoys both regular play and the special DIR Floortime play method. I'm not saying that it will engage your child overnight, but our kid progressed from very little eye contact and interest in others to a kid that actively asks people to play and voluntarily shares to facilitate play. And he did it in about 8 weeks.

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## **Lindsay says**

This is one tough book to get through! There is definitely a wealth of information in this thick book, but if it took this bookworm a month to read it imagine how long the average parent would need! I felt that Greenspan included a lot of the theoretical knowledge behind his floortime approach and "scenarios" of how to use the approach with kids who have lots of language. But there was never a chapter that said ....If you want to use Floortime with your child you need to start off by doing A, B, and C. I think that's what I was looking for in this book and didn't find it. I would say for those who are interested in the developmental theories for working with children with delays/disabilities that this is a good foundational book to read!

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## **Kate says**

Read for work. ABA just wasn't all the child I was working with needed, so his behavior therapist started using some floortime techniques. She suggested the boys mother and I read the book. It is a great approach, though one can see aspects of ABA in it as well. My philosophy is that there is no one therapy that works for every person, and one must try to acquire as much knowledge as possible if one is to be a successful therapist.

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### **Christine says**

Excellent book for professionals in the autism field. Thoroughly explains the DIR approach, an alternative to ABA that focuses on developing basic emotional and relational abilities in order to help higher level thinking and relating skills develop naturally.

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### **Kelly says**

Can I really say I "like" this book? I mean hello -- I would prefer NOT to be reading a book about strategies to help my autistic son fit into the world. (Why no, I'm not bitter, why do you ask? Oh, because of that whole issue where the general public as a whole is not compassionate to people who are different?)

I'm working my way through this and so far the advice is sound and the writing is clear. How's that for a review?

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### **Rosemary says**

This rating is for Parts III to V where the Floortime approach is finally, on page 163, introduced. Parts I and II were so painfully dry and boring I almost gave up. I suggest jumping straight in at Part III, as anything worth saying before then is neatly summarised later on.

It then got really good at page 250 with really detailed instructions on how to make Floortime work and take the child's communication skills to the next level. I would like to show our speech therapist pages 283-287 and ask how this fits with her own approach (which is Hanen).

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### **Amanda Himes says**

This is a classic and well-respected work on treating autism, and yet the floortime approach is really only going to work if your autistic child has some interests that you can be part of. If your child is self-stimulating on a blinking light toy, or perhaps by opening and closing a cabinet door repeatedly, it will be hard to interact with him / her. In my experience, the child won't appreciate efforts to, say, hide a toy in the cabinet and find it together. You and your child with autism need to start at a more basic level: see Motivation and Reinforcement: Turning the Tables on Autism for what is, in my opinion, the most helpful approach for even severely autistic kids.

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### **Julie Akeman says**

This book shows the best and personally the only therapy for autism I would trust. It enters into the child's world first, if people had entered MY world first when I was young and struggling then I wouldn't have the

issues I have in dealing with people. I am on the autism spectrum and this book could have helped me if people knew about how to properly treat autism back then. It's not a cure for autism, but it helps much better in advancing them than most other therapies out there.

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### **R.K. Goff says**

I'm sure it was chalk full of useful information. It must have been. There were so many pages. I don't want to knock it for that--it was just absolute torture to read. Confusing, poorly illustrated, and mostly impractical (but informative!). It might fill some need out there that I'm not aware of, but I thought it was poorly written for the average Joe wanting to help their child.

Me? I'm hoping that if I go to the how-to chapters in Greenspan's *The Child With Special Needs* I'll learn what I need to do floortime without wanting to rip my eyeballs from my sockets.

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