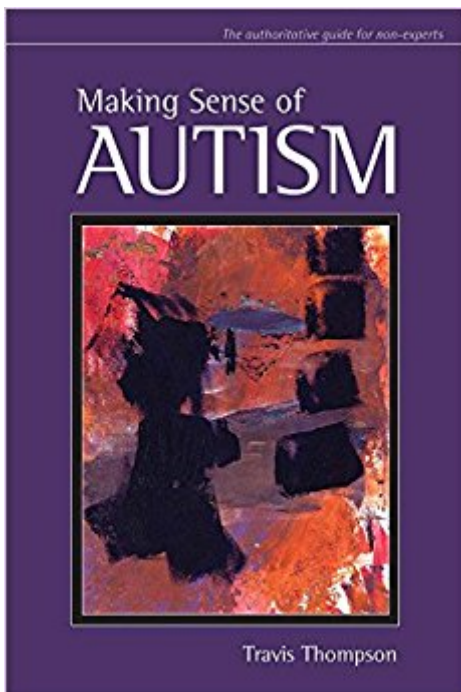


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# Making Sense Of Autism



## Synopsis

When you're working with children who have autism, you're sure to have questions about a wide range of issues: challenging behavior, interventions, medications, effective partnerships with parents, and the nature of the disorder itself. Think of this book as your "autism primer" – the one you need to read first to get a solid, balanced understanding of what autism is, how it affects behavior and learning, and what you can do to effectively work with children with autism from their preschool years through elementary school. Expertly clarifying research and science, highly respected autism researcher and clinician Travis Thompson helps you make sense of brain development and differences in children with autism types of early intervention and assessment commonly prescribed medications and their effects controversies surrounding autism treatments positive behavior support families' complex perspectives and challenges disabilities associated with autism, such as fragile X syndrome, dyslexia, and ADHD curricular and environmental adaptations With the reliable, accessible research in this enlightening resource, you'll learn to see the world through the eyes of children with autism and skillfully address the issues they and their families face on a daily basis. An essential resource to share with parents once you've read it yourself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A marvelous resource for parents and professionals alike . . . solid and sensible advice and information. --Director, Yale Child Study Center; Chief of Child Psychiatry, Yale-New Haven

Truly a primer about Autism – a good book for parents of young children with Autism and an even better resource for teachers and other professionals. --Support for Families of Children with Disabilities An understandable and comprehensive means of better understanding the essential principles and issues that underpin autism spectrum disorders. --Professor of Special Education, University of Kansas

Travis Thompson, Ph.D., L.P., Graduate Faculty Member, Special Education Program, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and Consulting Psychologist, Minnesota Early Autism Project, 7242 Forestview Lane North, Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369 Dr. Thompson is affiliated with the Autism Certificate Program in the Special Education Program of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota, and he is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. He is a collaborator on a multisite project on challenging behavior in developmental disabilities including the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Maryland; the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and the University of Kansas, Parsons. He is a licensed psychologist. Dr. Thompson completed his doctoral training in psychology at the University of Minnesota and completed postdoctoral work at the University of Maryland. He spent a year at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom and a year as a visiting scientist at the National Institute on Drug Abuse in Rockville, Maryland. Dr. Thompson was Director of the John F. Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development at Vanderbilt University and Director of the Institute for Child Development at the University of Kansas Medical Center – a clinical, training, and research institute. Dr. Thompson has served on several National Institutes of Health research review committees, including chairing reviews of the applicants for Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism awards in 2000, 2003, and 2007. He has been a member of American Psychological Association (APA) task forces concerned with the practice of psychology and psychopharmacology. He is a past president of the Behavioral Pharmacology Society, the Division of Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse, and the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities of the APA. Dr. Thompson has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Research Award, The Arc of the United States; the Academy on Mental Retardation Lifetime Research Award; the APA's Don Hake Award; the Edgar A. Doll Award, for contributions to facilitate the transfer of research into practice; and the Ernest R. Hilgard Award and the Impact of Science on Application Award of the Society for Advancement of Behavior Analysis. He has served as cochair of the Association for Behavior Analysis International's Annual Autism Conference (2010 and 2011). He

has published more than 230 journal articles and chapters and 30 books dealing with autism, developmental disabilities, psychopharmacology, and related topics. His most recent books, *Making Sense of Autism* (2007) and *Dr. Thompson's Straight Talk on Autism* (2008), are also published by Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co. Dr. Thompson has spoken in 46 states and 15 countries about his research and clinical services and on topics related to autism and other developmental disabilities and psychopharmacology.

The book is not written in layman language. Too much medical terminology. Did not quite understand it all and it was very confusing..

I have been able to use this product for my Autism course to learn more about Autism. It gives great insights!

I am a behavior psychologist who does early intensive behavioral intervention (IEBI) with children who have autism spectrum disorders (ASD's) and I have found Dr. Thompson's book to be an invaluable resource. I regularly recommend this book to both professionals and families who care for children with ASD's. This book is especially helpful for families who have recently received an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis and are overwhelmed with absorbing the diagnosis, grieving the loss of their dreams for their child, and facing the pressure of deciding on treatment options. Dr. Thompson thoroughly explores IEBI and describes what family members can and cannot expect from the process. Additionally, he provides a frank discussion of family dynamics that facilitate or impede early intervention as well as problem behaviors that are commonly misinterpreted by family members. Dr. Thompson has the unique ability to present complex research findings in a manner that is clear, concise, and relevant. For example, his discussion of brain dysfunction in autism (Chapter 3) fosters an appreciation of the importance of early intervention and its possible effects on the brain. However; my favorite thing about this book is the table in Chapter 3 that summarizes autism interventions, the evidence for their effectiveness, and their possible effects on the core symptoms of autism. This table along with the final chapter (Cautionary Considerations for Parents and Practitioners) is worth the price of the book alone and I use them together often! Finally, many of the families to whom I have recommended this book have commented on the depth, empathy, and respect evident in Dr. Thompson's writing. Dr. Thompson displays a deep understanding and appreciation of the emotional issues that arise during the diagnostic process and in choosing among the many treatment options available; and he does this while never losing sight of the facts. This is a

very difficult thing for professionals to do when they are focused on their desire to build on a child's strengths in order to maximize his or her potential and to make every minute of skill training count. Dr. Thompson's book is a reminder that although researchers are making great strides in informing us about the causes and treatment of autism, we must never lose sight of the uniqueness of each person with an ASD and each family member supporting and encouraging that person's growth.

This is a terrific book! I only wish I would have had the opportunity to read such an insightful, candid and thorough book when our son was diagnosed with autism three years ago. Dr. Thompson has written an easy-to-understand book that flows well and includes sections important to anyone with autism in their life. He explores diagnosis, families, early-intervention, school, pharmacology (this section is fascinating!) co-existing and related conditions, etc. From a parent perspective, I like that he shared that his grandson has autism. I believe that he really "gets" what this is like from the inside out, and wants to help kids live the best life possible. I learned a lot, this is very current information, and Dr. Thompson presents it candidly yet thoughtfully. I read a lot of books about autism, and would certainly recommend this as a very worthwhile addition to your "autism collection".

For anybody on the spectrum and/or has a child who is on the autism/Asperger's (a/A) spectrum, be sure to make this book a very close friend. This is a valuable resource tool. Dr. Thompson writes in a clear, logical style and his frank approach will be welcomed by all. He discusses the diagnosis; the neuro-biological condition that autism is; drug treatment; early intervention; school and other related developmental conditions. Professionals also will want to make a place on their book shelves for this gem. Dr. Thompson, himself the grandfather of a child with autism appears to have an excellent understanding of what this condition entails. He is able to see autism from an insider's perspective and I think he is sincere about wanting to help each person on the spectrum live a life of quality and dignity. Dr. Thompson and Dr. Attwood are the top contenders in a/A literature from the professional's point of view. Be sure to read this along with *The Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome* by Dr. Attwood.

Dr. Thompson is a true expert on autism and has put together a book to help people gain a better understanding of the disorder. It is a valuable resource for parents, and for teachers and clinicians who have the responsibility of helping families come to grips with a new diagnosis. I routinely recommend this to families and to professionals who are new to the autism field. Dr. Thompson

takes knowledge gained from research, and combines it with his experience as a family member and a clinician to create a readable and useful resource.

Comprehensive book on Autism, I read it in my masters program but would be excellent for nay parent or teacher to read. Easy to read and informational.

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