

PROLOGUE

The purpose of this book is to provide an outline of practical information and effective suggestions of care in laymen's terms along with effective suggestions to families with loved ones diagnosed with autism. This book addresses common family experiences and what may be expected while raising, caring for, and planning for the future for a child with autism. It is intended to provide helpful tips for family members and care providers, not to replace the advice and consultation of medical professionals in the field.

I found roadblocks in accessing services, minimal awareness, and a lack of programs was commonplace. From 1985 to the present it has been an uphill struggle. Out of commonly held precepts and then current thinking concerning autism came new ways of viewing, identifying, and managing aberrant behavior through positive techniques and incremental reinforcement.

As a result of a growing need and to encourage greater appreciation for future concerns, primarily from parents and loved ones, this book was written. The content and recommendations are rooted in real-life experiences and developed through research.