

**DEFINING AUTISM:
FROM NONSPEAKING
TO PROFESSIONAL
SPEAKER**



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Interactive activity.
**We will be starting
shortly.**
**In the chat box
please tell us...**

- **Your name**
- **When were you first introduced to the topic of autism (when your child was diagnosed, educator, therapist, etc.)**

PREVIOUSLY RECORDED



My Diagnosis

- Non-verbal till I was 2.5
- Diagnosed w PDD-NOS-at 4
- Speech delay, expressive and receptive language disorder, Severe sensory integration dysfunction, auditory processing disorder, twirling, dysgraphia, motor challenges
- Emotional issues throughout adolescence due to limited speech



My challenges with sensory processing (began at two)

- Deathly afraid of bells, sirens while hypersensitive to sounds
- Couldn't go out in wind, rain, snow
- Couldn't be bathed, wouldn't go swimming, or take showers
- Didn't want to be touched, hugged
- Would only eat certain foods (bologna sandwiches)
- Couldn't put stamps on hands would scream to take it off
- Had to have in house Occupational therapy with Pediatric SID specialist
- Began with gak, rice to increase tolerance of different textures. Brush skin to increase tolerance
- Gradually liked water would run under showers at pool

Dr. Kerry Magro EdD: Professional Speaker

From nonverbal to professional speaker:
Spoken at over 1150 events in the past 11 years.

Films: Joyful Noise &
Jane Wants A Boyfriend

TV: HBO's Mrs. Fletcher

Books: Defining Autism
From The Heart, Autism
and Falling in Love & I
Will Light It Up Blue
(available on Amazon)







CEO: KFM Making A
Difference

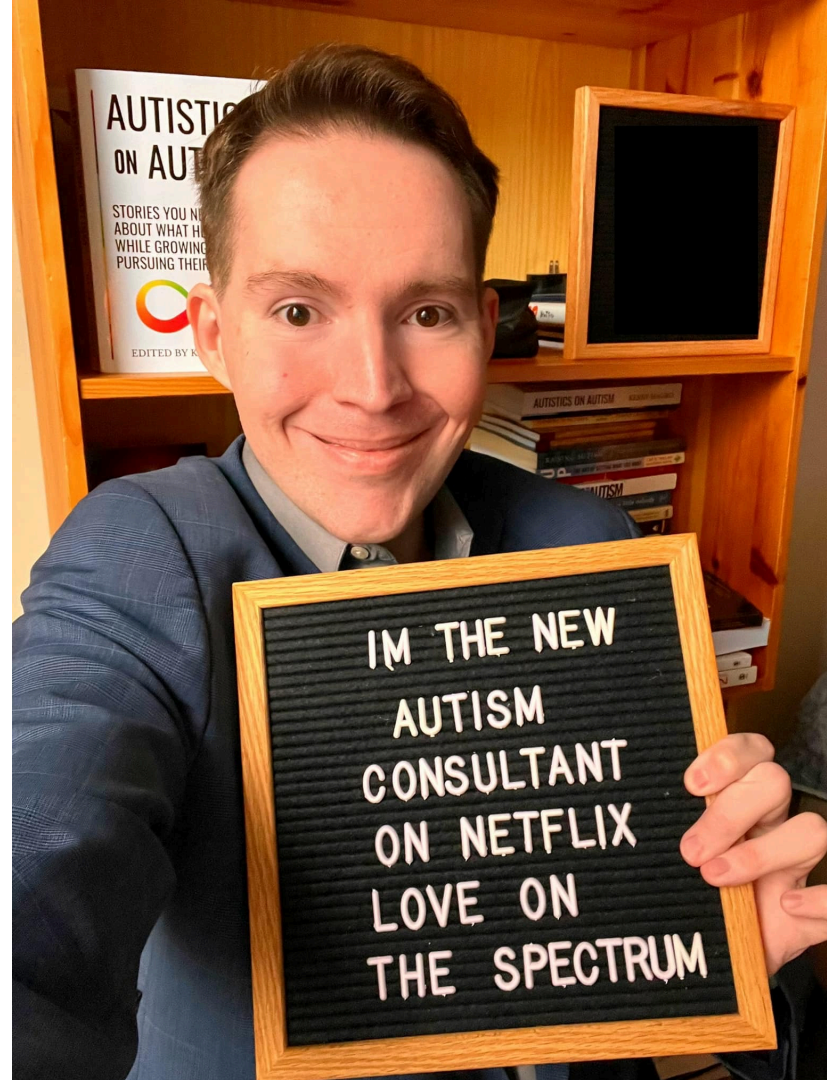
LOVE

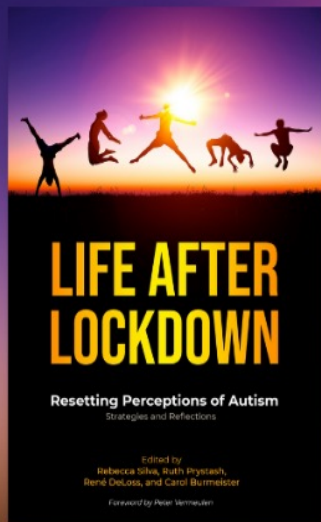
on the spectrum



SCREEN AUSTRALIA PRESENTS A NORTHERN PICTURES PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
SERIES DIRECTOR/PRODUCER CIAN O'CLEARY SUPERVISING PRODUCER JENNI WILKS PRODUCTION MANAGER BIANCA ADSTIN CINEMATOGRAPHY TOBY RALPH AARON SMITH CIAN O'CLEARY
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS LAURA GRACE ANELLA BARRY EDITORS SIMON CALLOW-WRIGHT BACHEL GRIERSON-JOHNS ASSISTANT EDITORS JACOB DEWILER ASHER SCOBIE
POST SUPERVISOR JAMES SPICER ORIGINAL MUSIC THE DA'S OFFICE PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR SIMA TWIBBLE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER KARINA HOLDEN PRODUCED BY NORTHERN PICTURES IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCREEN AUSTRALIA





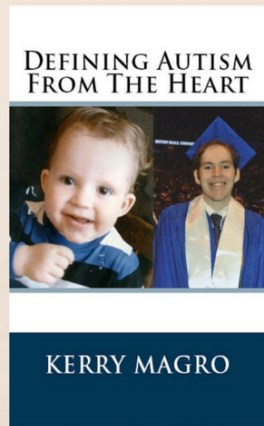
RESETTING PERCEPTIONS OF AUTISM

This one-of-a-kind collaboration with over 40 well-known professionals and individuals with ASD provides wisdom, humor, and a hefty dose of reality for autistic and non-autistic readers.

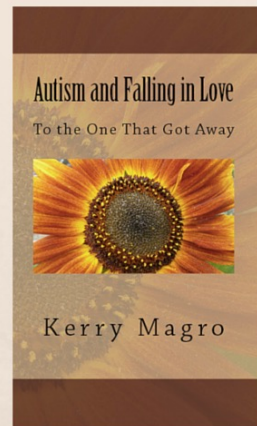
As the world engages in plans for reopening, the adjustment to rebuilding social connections, returning to school, and navigating a post-COVID world can be extremely anxiety-inducing for those with autism.

CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS AND WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE IN THE FIELD, INCLUDING:

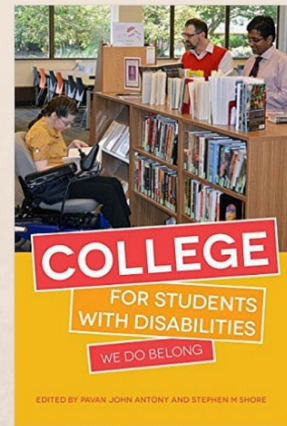
TEMPLE GRANDIN
 KERRY MAGRO
 TONY ATTWOOD
 KELLY LONDENBERG
 AND OVER 40 MORE!



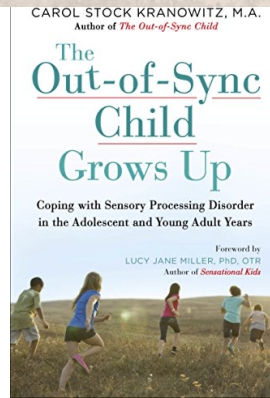
#1
 on an Amazon
 Best-Seller List



#3
 on an Amazon
 Best-Seller List



Contributed to
 book with
 Temple Grandin
 and Stephen
 Shore



AUTISTICS ON AUTISM

STORIES YOU NEED TO HEAR
ABOUT WHAT HELPED THEM
WHILE GROWING UP AND
PURSUING THEIR DREAMS



EDITED BY KERRY MAGRO

Making a Difference for Autism
Scholarship Program & Grant Opportunity for Small
Businesses That Hire Disabled People

- Filled out paperwork for non-profit status in 2011
- Given out 100 scholarships for adults with autism to attend college in past 8 years
- Given out 6 small business grants in 2020
- Give out scholarships every Spring,
- Apply for our Grant and/or Spring scholarship here: www.kfmmakingadifference.org
- Autistics on Autism came out March 29th on Amazon
- Thrilled to announce we reached an Amazon best-seller list for Autism & Aspergers Syndrome

10 questions I'm most frequently asked about



SCAN ME

- Public vs. Private vs. Homeschooling
- Picky-eating challenges
- Medications
- Transition to adulthood
- Making friends
- Bullying
- Challenging Behaviors
- Toilet training
- ABA
- Communication/Nonspeaking autism

Created a Frequently Asked Questions List with information based on what I've learned from my journey: bit.ly/autismfaqlist



Consider lesson plans on success stories: Celebrity Disability Bingo

- Did you know Michael Jordan was diagnosed with ADD at a young age?
- Magic Johnson – ADHD
- Leonardo Dicaprio – Dyslexia
- Justin Timberlake – ADD and OCD
- Michael Phelps- ADHD
- Dan Aykroyd - Autism

Victim of bullying

- Didn't have the social abilities to defend myself.
- Often was alone in my classes so I was an easy target
- Need to help our students define the following terms...
 - What is a bully
 - What is a friend
 - When someone is being sarcastic
- Encourage roleplaying situations and what to do when you are being bullied.
- October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Ways to combat bullying

Cool2BeKind Anti-Bullying Clubs –
Napab.org



Lunch buddies



Hosting virtual or in-person assemblies
with guest speakers

Some students will prefer identity first versus person first language (I.e. A deaf person versus a person who is deaf)

- Validation from identify first language
- Neurodiversity movement is leading to a larger conversation around Disability Acceptance instead of Disability Awareness
- Try to avoid functioning labels
 - “Kerry is high-functioning”
 - Instead “Kerry’s strengths are communication and his weakness is sensory challenges”

**Tag me in your social media posts
from today’s event @KerryMagro**



10 Things That Helped Me With The Journey To Adulthood

- Dude Where's My IEP?
 - We need to educate schools that transitional services must be provided at 14 for those with an IEP
- Roleplaying
 - Mock interviews, dating scenarios, etc.
- Servant Leadership
 - Received Presidential Service Award for 400 hours of community service.
- Learning from other self-advocates
 - Becoming friends with Temple Grandin & Stephen Shore
- Peer mentoring
 - All schools, businesses and nonprofit organizations should have a strong mentoring program to help others on their journey

10 Things That Helped Me With The Journey To Adulthood

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
 - Helped me collect positive thoughts when transitioning to adulthood
- Self-reflection – Begin with the end in mind
 - Each January writing at least 3 short-term and long term goals in a Journal
- Physical activity
 - As we learn more about how the brain it's important to understand the benefits of daily exercise when it comes to positivity endorphins AND retention of information (Depression on the rise for those with an ASD)
- Finding support networks such as the Autism Society of America
- Writing a blog: [Kerrymagro.com/blog](https://kerrymagro.com/blog)
 - Hundreds of self-advocates write everyday. Great went to vent as well.

Autism doesn't come with an instruction guide. It comes with a family who will never give up.

While this is sometimes true (for autistic people like me whose parents became my greatest advocates) we also need to help those who don't have that family support.

Have Dr. Kerry Magro Ed.D, an autistic public speaker give a talk with your school/business. Email: Kerrymagro@gmail.com



**Autism
can't
define
me.
I define
autism.**

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Thank you! If you take your phone out and go to your camera and take a photo of the screen and scan the QR code I'll be more than happy to send you the powerpoint slide notes. Also available at bit.ly/kerryslidenotes

Website: Kerrymagro.com

Email: Kerrymagro@gmail.com

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Instagram: Instagram.com/kerrymagro

TikTok: tiktok.com/kerrymagro



SCAN ME