**Recommended Books**

**Autism and the Myth of the Person Alone**

*Douglas Biklen, Editor*

Edited by Biklen, with chapters written by Richard Attfield, Larry Bissonnette, Lucy Blackman, Jamie Burke, Alberto Frugone, Tito Rajarshi Mukhopadhyay, and Sue Rubin.

This book challenges the prevailing, tragic narrative of impairment that so often characterizes discussions about autism. “A basic premise of the book is that people classified as autistic, even those who cannot speak, are thinking people with ideas about their lives and their relationship to the world. I call this orientation the presumption of competence” (p. 1).


**Communication Unbound: How Facilitated Communication is Challenging Traditional Views of Autism and Ability/Disability**

*Douglas Biklen*

This book includes Biklen’s first article on facilitated communication, as well as how-to information about the method and a discussion of how findings from facilitation challenge prevailing understandings of autism and related developmental disabilities.


**Contested Words, Contested Science: Unraveling the Facilitated Communication Controversy**

*Douglas Biklen and Donald Cardinal, Editors*

A collection of studies (controlled, quantitative ones as well as qualitative investigations) of facilitation, focusing mainly on the authorship question: Who is doing the typing: the facilitator or the person with the communication impairment? The book includes a chapter by Marcus and Shevin in which Marcus, an FC user, replicates a classic facilitated communication authorship test.

Lucy’s Story: Autism and Other Adventures

Lucy Blackman

Lucy Blackman was at one time thought moderately retarded (actually in Australia the term applied was intellectually disabled). She learned to communicate using facilitated communication and has since graduated to being able to type without physical support. She earned a bachelor’s degree in arts and letters from Deakin University in Australia and is currently enrolled in graduate studies. Anthony Attwood says of Blackman’s book in his introduction: “Lucy provides the point of view of someone with autism who has never used speech. I first met Lucy in Melbourne in 1990 and over the intervening years she has taught me more about autism than any academic text” (p. vii).


Speechless: Facilitating Communication for People without Voices

Rosemary Crossley

This book, written by the Australian educator widely recognized as one of the first to use facilitated communication, and certainly the first to prove the method’s effectiveness through validation tests, includes a series of case studies, told autobiographically. Crossley describes her work with individuals who have different disabilities and who use a variety of augmentative and alternative communication systems (AAC), including facilitated communication. Speechless provides documentation of the complexities of AAC and shows how the social context experienced by people who cannot speak drastically impacts their opportunities to communicate in other ways.


Facilitated Communication Training

Rosemary Crossley

An original how-to book about facilitation with people with severe communication difficulties. “Despite all the developments in nonspeech communication strategies and technology over the last 20 years, there is still a substantial number of individuals who have not yet achieved fluent, functional communication with any of the available systems. Some of these people may be helped by facilitated communication” (p. 2).

Annie's Coming Out

Rosemary Crossley and Anne McDonald

An autobiographical account of Anne McDonald’s struggle to leave a mental retardation institution. McDonald, who learned to communicate via facilitation, had to pass several validation tests before being declared competent and permitted to leave the institution. “Unless someone makes a jump by going outside the handicapped person’s previous stage of communication, there is no way the speechless person can do so. Failure is no crime. Failure to give someone the benefit of the doubt is” (p. 76).


I Had No Means to Shout

M.J. Hale and C. M. Hale

Charles Hale, a man with autism, discovered facilitated communication (FC) when he was 36 years old, and this book chronicles his life before and after he began to use FC through both Charles’ and his mother’s narratives. When he was a child, Hale was diagnosed as “trainably mentally retarded,” and it was not until he began using FC that he discovered he was autistic. While some of Charles’ narrative has been edited for easier reading, the authors make a conscious choice to leave many of Charles’ passages as originally typed, so that reader can see the clear intended meaning through errors made while using the method.


“You’re Going to Love This Kid!”: Teaching Students with Autism in the Inclusive Classroom

Paula Kluth

In this book, Kluth challenges readers to rethink autism by presenting the experiences and words of those with autism spectrum labels as she offers specific strategies to achieve inclusive education. She offers many curricular ideas and methods to support and teach all students with autism labels in inclusive classrooms. The book flows easily between theory and practice.

A Land We Can Share: Teaching Literacy to Students with Autism

Paula Kulth and Kelly Chandler-Olcott

“This guidebook brings cutting-edge literacy concepts to special educators who are already familiar with autism but may not have specific training in teaching reading skills and is an essential "literacy meets autism" primer for general educators and reading specialists. For all readers, the book underscores the ways in which literacy can help every learner achieve a more fulfilling, rich, and inclusive academic life” (www.paulakluth.com).


Just Give Him the Whale!: 20 Ways to Use Fascinations, Areas of Expertise, and Strengths to Support Students with Autism

Paula Kluth and Patrick Schwartz

"When learners with autism have deep, consuming fascinations—trains, triangles, basketballs, whales—teachers often wonder what to do. This concise, highly practical guidebook gives educators across grade levels a powerful new way to think about students' "obsessions": as positive teaching tools that calm, motivate, and improve learning." (Brookes Publishing)


Seeing all Kids as Readers: A New Vision for Literacy in the Inclusive Early Childhood Classroom

Christopher Kliewer

“This book examines literacy development and inclusion in the classroom community for young children with significant disabilities.” (www.amazon.com)

Concepts of Normality: The Autistic and Typical Spectrum

Wendy Lawson

"Wendy Lawson outlines the theory behind the current thinking and beliefs of Western society that have led to the building of a culture that fails to be inclusive. She describes what a wider concept of 'normal' means and how to access it, whether it's in social interaction, friendships, feelings, thoughts and desires or various other aspects of 'normality'. Practical advice is offered on a range of situations, including how to find your role within the family, how to integrate 'difference' into everyday society, and how to converse and connect with others." (Jessica Kingsley Publishers)


Representing Autism: Culture, Narrative, and Fascination

Stuart Murray

"Representing Autism analyzes and evaluates the place of autism within contemporary culture and at the same time examines the ideas of individual and community produced by people with autism themselves to establish the ideas of autistic presence that emerge from within a space of cognitive exceptionality. Central to the book is a sense of the legitimacy of autistic presence as a way by which we might more fully articulate what it means to be human." (www.amazon.com)


Out of Silence: A Journey into Language

Russell Martin

A popular book that recounts the author’s nephew’s introduction to facilitated communication and his subsequent experiences. This book, favorably reviewed in the New York Times Book Review and other major media outlets, concerns theories about literacy as well as the struggles of the author’s nephew to find a means of communicating.

Beyond the Silence: My Life, the World and Autism

Tito Mukhopadhyay

An autobiographical account by a young man with autism who learned to communication with physical support and who now types independently and can speak. Lorna Wing has written in the forward to this book: “His writing provides a vivid description of what it is like to be autistic and his thoughts about the meaning of life. It is essential reading for anyone wanting to understand the nature of autism” (p. 3).


How Can I Talk if My Lips Don't Move

Tito Mukhopadhyay

Mukhopadhyay, an adolescent with autism whose mother taught him to read and write, lets us into his everyday life.


The Mind Tree

Tito Mukhopadhyay

“Eloquent. Philosophical. Introspective. These are not the words usually associated with an autistic child. But in a remarkable display of courage and creativity, a boy named Tito has shattered stereotypes, and in The Mind Tree makes us question all of our previous assumptions about autism. For Tito is severely autistic and nearly nonverbal, and this is his story” (www.amazon.com).

A Slice of My Life: Facilitated Communication Training

Jane Remington-Gurney

'A Slice of My Life - Facilitated Communication Training 2010. The author, Jane Remington-Gurney, has been a facilitator and trainer for over twenty years and was first trained in FCT by Dr. Rosemary Crossley. This book brings together a history of Facilitated Communication, stories from some users of Facilitation, recording measures and photographs illustrating some of the key aspects of this augmentative and alternative communication strategy. The three levels of competency (Beginner, Advanced and Instructor) are detailed at the back of this book for facilitators to reference when undertaking the competency based, FC training offered in Australia’


Reasonable People: A Memoir of Autism and Adoption: On the Meaning of Family and the Politics of Neurological Difference

Ralph Savarese

The story of a Grinnell College professor, Savarese, and his adopted son DJ. Savarese describes DJ’s communication development and larger disability rights issues. DJ utilizes facilitated communication to express his thoughts and feelings. This is also a story of inclusion and the families fight to include DJ in general education classrooms.


I Don't Want to be Inside Me Anymore

Birger Sellin

An autobiographical account of one person’s learning to communicate via facilitation. This book provides exceptionally rich material on how Sellin experiences autism.