



Newsletter Vol. 2 2011: Book Review from OASIS@MAAP

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Making Sense of Autism Spectrum Disorders by James Coplan, M.D., Bantam Books, New York. 2010

This large (402 pages), hardback book is a treasure trove of information and advice for families raising individuals on the autism spectrum. As you all know, there are hundreds of current books that meet this description. What sets this book apart is the types and extent of information, the way it is divided and the unique combination of objectivity, combined with personal advice and personal revelations. With sections like “What to Expect in a Medical Evaluation”, “Fact and Fiction in Lab Testing”, “What Does the Future Hold”, and “Degree of Atypicality” the book answers questions and gives information that many parents don’t even know they need to ask in those first, difficult weeks and months after diagnosis or when suspecting an autism-related problem. I also really like the advice to parents about keeping themselves and other siblings healthy while helping their special child. I found the description of what is and is not considered reasonable or standardly acceptable in testing to be very helpful to new parents. I would recommend this book to all families who are entering the world of autism spectrum challenges and to their extended family and pediatricians as well.

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