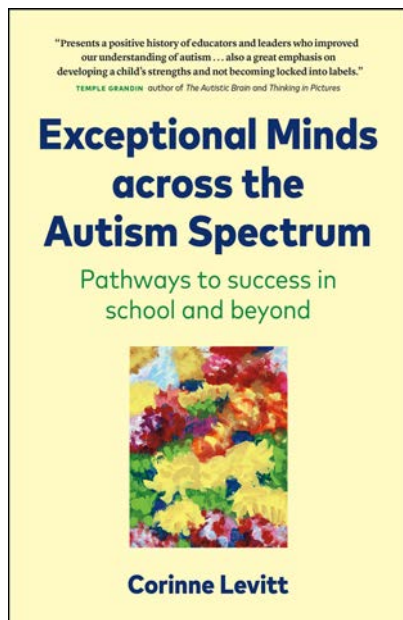


Exceptional Minds across the Autism Spectrum

By Corinne Levitt



"A dedicated teacher looks back on a long career working with students with autism. She presents a positive history of educators and leaders who improved our understanding of autism. There is also a great emphasis on developing a child's strengths and not becoming locked into labels."

—Temple Grandin, author of *The Autistic Brain* and *Thinking in Pictures*

"This is an exceptional book about exceptional minds by an exceptional teacher [that] advises how to 'teach to the talent' and how to use handicaps or deficits as teaching opportunities.... If I were to recommend one book on strength-based education to an established or beginning teacher in any public or private elementary or secondary classroom with special needs children with a variety of learning or other disabilities, this would be the book."

—Darold A. Treffert, M.D.
The Treffert Center for Exceptional Minds

A remarkable teacher's insights on supporting students with autism

Toronto, ON—In this extraordinary collection of stories and insights, special education teacher Corinne Levitt demonstrates the transformative power of a strength-based approach to teaching students on the autism spectrum. *Exceptional Minds across the Autism Spectrum* provides a powerful new way of thinking about autism and education, giving the reader the tools to see past student deficits and labels, and recognize the innate potential of all students to learn and thrive.

Levitt brings together research and best practices from special education and autism research, and showcases the voices and experiences of her own students and their families. Readers meet students like Tally, whose obsession with pulling at threads and scratching her skin was redirected when she learned how to knit, discovering both a hidden talent and an opportunity to sell her handiwork. And there is Eric, who developed his skill for poetry, and was thrilled when his poem was published in a prestigious public library magazine. Also a talented visual artist, his colourful painting appears on the front cover of this book. *Exceptional Minds across the Autism Spectrum* also outlines the practical and inexpensive techniques and strategies Levitt has developed, along with profiles of leaders in autism education who have shaped the field as it is today.

"In my long career in education, I have witnessed the difficulty in shifting from a mindset that focuses on deficits and behaviours, instead of embracing the well-established strength-based approach to teaching that recognizes that we all have different and preferred styles of learning. We now know that students on the spectrum also learn differently—so why are we still struggling?" asks Levitt. "It is my hope that this book inspires other educators to re-examine what lies behind our current understanding of the autism spectrum and learning differences, in order to create a school culture based on dignity, respect, social inclusion, and the right to a meaningful education."

Proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to various autism charities and initiatives.

About the Author



After many years of working as a high school English teacher and special educator, Corinne Levitt decided to change direction and work primarily with adolescents with special needs and developmental differences. Her background in learning disabilities, psycholinguistics, and the arts enabled her to "teach to the talent" while encouraging her students to discover and explore their potential. Now in retirement, she is a member of the VIVA! Youth Singers and sings alongside many of her former students who encouraged her to discover her voice. She wrote this book in recognition of the need to promote the important role an enriched educational experience can have on the lives of students who stand to benefit the most from best educational practices.

Corinne lives in Toronto, Canada, where she was born and raised. Learn more at www.teachexceptionalminds.com.

Exceptional Minds across the Autism Spectrum: Pathways to Success in School and Beyond

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For more information or to arrange an interview with Corinne Levitt please contact:

Jessica Werb
Page Two
604.248.4211
jwerb@pagetwo.com
www.pagetwo.com