

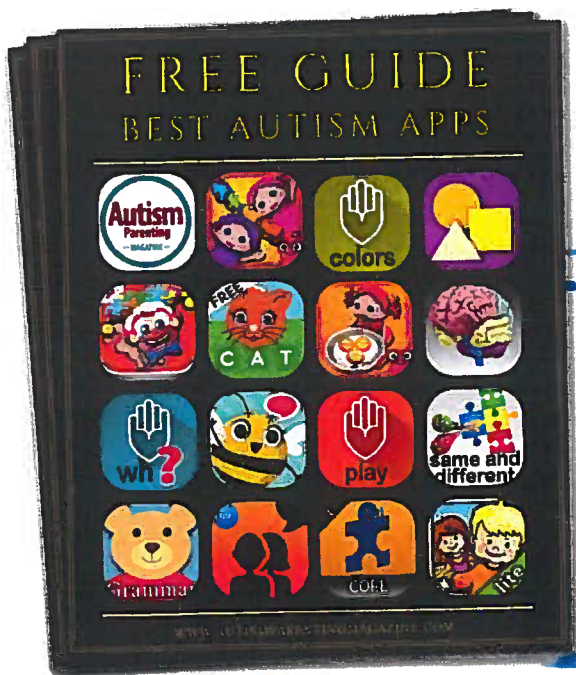
# Autism Parenting Magazine

Issue 84

**What Are Your Child's Rights When It Comes to the Use of Restraint?**

**TOP 10 WAYS to Develop a Better Relationship With an Aspie Teen**

**2018 APM Awards**



**Quick Tips for Potty Training Children With Autism and Special Needs**

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**THE JOURNEY TO GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

# 2018 APM Awards: Celebrating Our Terrific Autism Community Today and Tomorrow

By Amy KD TOBIK

*We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves.  
The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.*

— Edith Lovejoy Pierce

It's time to say hello to a bright new year filled with opportunity and promise!

As I look back on this past year, I am inspired by the vibrant and devoted group of people that has developed within the *Autism Parenting Magazine* community. For the past six years, we've coordinated with more than 1,500 autism specialists, scientists, educators, advocates, autism parents, and people who are on the spectrum, all of whom have generously shared their expertise.

As many of you may know, *Autism Parenting Magazine* received the respected Gold Award from the Mom's Choice Awards a few years ago, and this year the magazine was ranked fifth for "Top 20 Parenting Magazines and Ezines to Follow In 2018" from thousands of parenting magazines. We are honored to receive this kind of recognition and would like to share this award with our many contributors, including you, our devoted readers.

Several years ago, we made it a tradition to present awards to key contributors here at the magazine. As always, it was a challenge to select only a few contributors to receive this honor as we work with and respect the honesty and guidance of all of our writers. Everyone deserves to be celebrated. We would like to highlight the following contributors selected for this special recognition for 2018:

## 2018 TOP CONTRIBUTOR AWARDS



**Top Autism  
Rights Writer**

Pam Mines and her husband Perry have three children: Michelle, Sydnee, and James Perry (JP). In 2005, JP was diagnosed with a developmental delay, and soon after with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Their daughter, Sydnee, joined their family in 2008 after her biological mother, Pam's godsister, passed away from complications of neurofibromatosis (NF). Sydnee also has NF as well as ADHD. Pam founded JP Jumpers Foundation to positively impact families affected by autism, special needs, and unique circumstances. She wrote the book *God Chose Me: An Interactive Book to Promote Family Building* with her daughter, Michelle, as the illustrator. In 2014, Pam led the legislation to establish "JP's Law" (SB367) in Virginia. This law gained bipartisan support and established a special identification card that helps law enforcement understand when they may be engaging with someone with special needs. The training programs she has led is used to train law enforcement on how to safely, responsibly, and successfully understand some responses of those with special needs.





**Top  
Autism  
Therapy  
Writer**

William Killion, PhD, BCBA, is a speech and language pathologist with 40-plus years of direct experience with individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism. After receiving his BS in speech pathology with a minor in psychology, Dr. Killion went on to attain an MEd in special education and a PhD in developmental psychology. He is the owner of Functional Skills ABA, LLC, a practice that services many areas of South Carolina, and he has served as an adjunct psychology professor and consultant to psychiatric and behavioral facilities for behavioral plans for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. He is a BCBA at Springbrook and the author of the *Functional Independence Skills Handbook*, or FISH Developmental Program, a curriculum for ABA used in 83 countries that has been translated into many languages. Dr. Killion is a frequent national speaker on ABA and how to address significant negative behaviors.



**Top Autism  
Safety  
Advisor**

Sandy Fields, BS, is a parent of a child with severe disabilities, and assisting families has been a life-long passion. She has worked as a professional special education advocate for a federally-funded parent training and information center for over 18 years and was a parent support volunteer for several years prior. Sandy has served on several boards of directors for disability organizations, on state committees, and as a local long-term care ombudsman. She also founded a parent information group and helped to establish a recreational horseback riding program in her local area. Sandy has a great knowledge of special education rules and disability regulations as well as a wide variety of general parenting, autism, and other disability-related resources. She holds a BS in psychology from Indiana University and regularly engages in ongoing professional development activities.



**Top Autism  
Advocate**

Derrick Hayes is an author, motivational speaker, and paraprofessional in the Muscogee County School District in Columbus, Georgia. He gives an AUTISM interview by asking six questions through each letter in the word AUTISM to give readers insightful perspectives from parents, experts, entrepreneurs, and other leaders in the field.



**Top Autism  
Solutions  
Writer**

Debra Moore, PhD, is a psychologist who, prior to retirement from an active practice, worked extensively with children, teens, and adults on the autism spectrum. She co-authored *The Loving Push: How Parents and Professionals Can Help Spectrum Kids Become Successful Adults* (2016) with Dr. Temple Grandin. She contributed two chapters (one coauthored with Dr. Grandin) to *The Nine Degrees of Autism* (2015) and wrote the chapter "Internet and Gaming Addiction in Youth on the Autism Spectrum: A Particularly Vulnerable Population in Internet Addiction in Children and Adolescents: Risk Factors, Assessment, and Treatment" (2017). She also facilitates the groups Autism Spectrum Across the Lifespan, and Autism Spectrum HELPING HANDS Mentors on LinkedIn.com.



**Top Autism  
Safety  
Writer**

Angela Nelson, MS, BCBA, is Rethink's executive director of family and clinical services and has been with Rethink since 2011. She currently supports parents utilizing Rethink through their employee benefits program. Angela leads a



team of skilled clinicians in conducting parent consultation, which includes supporting families as they sharpen their teaching skills in their own homes and providing tips along the way. She provides educational content for Rethink and collaborates on the advancements of the Rethink platform. Angela also conducts supervision for candidates pursuing their board certification in applied behavior analysis (ABA).



**Top Autism Health Writer**



Joshua Garrin, PhD, CPT, CHC, holds a PhD in health psychology, an MS in cognitive and counseling psychology, and a BS in general psychology and journalism. Following the completion of his doctorate in 2014, Joshua was the recipient of Walden University's Harold L. Hodgkinson Award for Outstanding Dissertation Research for his inquiry on health beliefs, outcome expectancies, and stress appraisal in college seniors. In addition, Joshua was the recipient of Walden University's 2015 Presidential Alumni Research Dissemination Award for having published his award-winning dissertation research via multiple literary channels. In 2017, Joshua published *The I-Way To Well: Mapping The Seven Selves Of Health Motivation* (Motivational Press, 2017), an overview of the tools he uses to help his clients recalibrate their motivational "compasses" for more self-determined journeys to optimal well-being.



**Top Social Skills Writer**



Monica C. Hudnall, MA, CCC-SLP, specializes in autism spectrum disorders and culturally/linguistically diverse populations. She has provided treatment in public schools and early intervention, serving 18-months to 21-year-olds with mild to severe communication impairments in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has presented at the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA) Annual Convention and is a volunteer board member of CSHA-District 4.



**Top Communication Advisor**



Rebecca Eisenberg, MS, CCC-SLP, is a certified speech-language pathologist, author, instructor, and parent of two children. She has been working in the field of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) for more than 15 years in a variety of settings and currently works with both children and adults with autism and other varying disabilities who have complex communication needs. She also writes a blog called Gravity Bread for parents that focuses on using mealtime as learning opportunities for language. She is the children's book author of *The Monkey Balloon*, and she will be releasing two more children's books this summer: *My Second Year of Kindergarten* and *A Tale of The Monkey Balloon*. She has also published multiple games and a workbook for children with special needs through Super Duper Publications.



**Top Autism Solutions Writer**



Melissa M. Root, PhD, is president and founder of Root Success Solutions™, LLC, and a certified school psychologist in Connecticut. Dr. Root is a co-author of *Picture Perfect: Video Self-Modeling for Behavior Change*, available from Pacific Northwest Publishing and through her website. Dr. Root holds a professional certificate in video self-modeling and trains families and professionals on how to use the technique. She presents internationally on video self-modeling as an effective tool for positive behavior change.



**Top Occupational Therapist**



Kelly Beins, BHSc, OTR/L, is a seasoned therapist with more than 23 years of experience in occupational therapy

(OT). Kelly received her BA in psychology and her bachelor of health sciences in OT from McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. She received her specialty certification in sensory integration in 2005 and has an extensive clinical background combining OT and sensory integration with behavioral health interventions. Kelly is a newly published children's author of a book series about a young sheep named Ovis with sensory processing disorder, and she approaches her work with an intuitive, empathic, and playful style while implementing the most current evidence-based interventions available. Kelly also owns and operates her own group private practice in Frederick, Maryland, where she lives with her husband and two daughters.



**Top Personal Narrative Writer**

Kimberly Reeves, MEd, is a professor of biology at Whatcom Community College in the Pacific Northwest US. A firm believer in the value and strength of community, Kimberly has served as a board member of Families for Autism Care, Education, and Support (FACES) Northwest, a local summer day camp for children with autism in Whatcom County, Washington, has consulted with her local school district, and assists with her son's Special Olympics activities. She provides informational support to families processing an autism diagnosis or struggling to understand and navigate their rights and responsibilities as parent advocates and guardians as outlined by the federal government. She and her son Ryan are currently co-authoring a book, *Raising Ryan*, and are enjoying this experience together.



**Top Parental Advice Writer**

Deanna Picon is the founder of Your Autism Coach, LLC, which provides personalized guidance, comprehensive support programs, and seminars for parents of special needs children. Her personal mis-

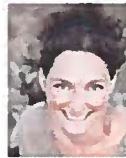


sion is to empower parents as they advocate for their children while balancing productive work and family lives. She received her BA in psychology and BA in broadcast journalism from Syracuse University. Deanna is a parent of a nonverbal young man with autism. She is the author of *The Autism Parents' Guide to Reclaiming Your Life*, available from Amazon and through her website.



**Top Education Writer**

Ginger Strivelli is the mother of six grown children, including three who are on the spectrum. She lives with two of her daughters in North Carolina. Ginger is an artist, writer, and avid world traveler.



**Top Autism Food Writer**

Jo Cormack, MA, MBACP, is a qualified and registered counselor specializing in child feeding. She is a doctoral researcher (researching picky eating) at Bishop Grosseteste University in the UK. Jo is the author of *Helping Children Develop a Positive Relationship with Food: A Practical Guide for Early Years Professionals* published by Jessica Kingsley.



**Top Young Writer**

JaMar Taylor is a 10-year-old author from Washington state. Diagnosed with autism around the age of eight, he began using his imagination to write unique stories. He loves to use what he calls his "unique brain" to create humorous and informational content for others. JaMar also enjoys sharing a different perspective on many topics, including autism.

