

***“People with ASD don’t suffer from ASD, they suffer from the way people treat them.”***

**Dr Tony Attwood**

## 17 Ideas to Help Raise Awareness in Your School and Community

One in 88 people are diagnosed with ASD. All of us can help by raising awareness in our community. Below are some ideas to try – imagine if everyone just chose two what a difference it would make:

1. If you are in a Book Club, recommend your group reads a personal account by person with ASD. Some great reads include *Pretending to be Normal*; *Very Late Diagnosis of ASD*; *Thinking in Pictures*. (See books below)
2. Watch the Temple Grandin movie. (See pg 5)
3. Library/Reading Corner/Readers: Make a display of books about ASD.
4. Staff Room: Make a display of books that explain diagnosis, using books like *The Complete Guide to Aspergers Syndrome*; *Kids in the Syndrome Mix*. (See pg 6 for ideas)
5. Read a personal account by a person with ASD and share with other people what you found interesting.
6. Download the free Tip Sheet from my website called *10 Essential Tips for Understanding ASD* and share with colleagues, community.
7. Facebook: Follow *The Autism Discussion Page* and read the NEW Autism Discussion Page books. They are fantastic!
8. Read a story to children on ASD (See recommendations below).
9. At a staff meeting watch a YouTube clip on ASD. I recommend the clip “BBC - Autism and Me”.
10. Make a poster celebrating difference. (See suggestion pg 2)
11. Book in to see Dean Beadle when he is in Australia – an inspirational young man with ASD. Watch his YouTube clip on my website.
12. Sign up to my free E-zine to receive a free PowerPoint presentation of motivational slides to share at staff meeting, with friends etc.
13. Actively involve children in community projects regarding disability.
14. Have a selection of books in the library which encourages understanding of difference, diversity and disability. (The “Can I Tell You About...” series below is fantastic).
15. Have posters around the school grounds that celebrate diversity.
16. Celebrate a different disability each month.
17. Encourage fundraising by students for different disabilities through morning tea/lunches etc.

## Great Books to Educate About ASD to Staff, Family and Community

### Jasper and the Magpie

By Dan Mayfield

This fun and thought-provoking rhyming storybook will delight anyone with a special interest and encourage readers to be more accepting of difference and unusual passions. A delightful story and illustrations. It shows the importance of embracing special interests and using them in a constructive way. Divine to share with peers and family. (Read more about special interests, fixations pg 10.)

CODE B113 \$25 (incl P & H)

### All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome By Kathy Hoopmann

This book takes a playful look at Asperger Syndrome (AS), drawing inspiration from the feline world in a way that will strike a chord with all those who are familiar with AS. This engaging book is an ideal, gentle introduction to the world of Asperger Syndrome.

CODE B10 \$30 (incl P & H)

### The Can I Tell You About...? Series

Offers simple introductions to a range of limiting conditions and other issues that affect our lives. Friendly characters invite readers to learn about their experiences, the challenges they face, and how they would like to be helped and supported. Excellent starting points for family and classroom discussions on topics including Autism, Aspergers Syndrome, OCD, Anxiety, ADHD, Dyspraxia. For ages 7+.

\$20 EACH (incl P & H)

### Pretending to be Normal By Liane Holliday Willey

Compelling and witty, Liane Holliday Willey’s account of growing to adulthood as an undiagnosed ‘Aspie’ has been a popular read with thousands on and off the autism spectrum.

CODE B122 \$40 (incl P & H)

### Very Late Diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome By Philip Wylie

As awareness and understanding of Asperger Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder increases, more adults are identifying themselves as being on the spectrum and seeking formal diagnosis. Discusses the process, the pros and cons, and the after-effects of receiving an autism diagnosis in adulthood.

CODE B121 \$40 (incl P & H)

GREAT NEW BOOK

