

Foreword

Supporting students with disabilities of all kinds to access the core curriculum and take part as full members of school and classroom communities requires information, collaboration, and a shared vision among team members. At the heart of this book is a desire to share from real school experiences—the ups and downs of teaming, providing supports, teaching together, and addressing learning and social challenges with creativity and consistency.

The author brings his experiences as an inclusion support teacher, and as a parent, to life, through practical and easy-to-follow strategies that he has utilized in his quest to successfully support individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in the general education core curriculum, classrooms, and all aspects of school life. He is primarily speaking to general education teachers; however, parents, paraprofessionals, and other school faculty and staff will also benefit from these easy-to-read chapters and easy-to-follow suggestions. Written in a friendly, yet informative, style, the book brings to life many of the day-to-day experiences that teachers with heterogeneous classrooms, including students with disabilities, will have.

Chapters 1 and 2 give the reader background information in ASD and the history of inclusive schools. The remaining chapters provide practical strategies for social supports, modifications and adaptations to the core curriculum, classroom organization, instructional strategies, positive behavioral supports, and communication. Each chapter also includes resources for further information.

Schools are learning communities. This means that teachers have to be lifelong learners if we are to expect our students to be lifelong learners. The author has clearly taken this to heart as he has diligently gone to conferences, read books and journals, and gathered information to be more successful at serving his students. I know this, because he is a graduate from the program I coordinate at California State University, Sacramento. Now, in this book, he has taken time to share with the reader the strategies that he has found to be most successful. I think you will enjoy this book, and, more important, find practical and easy-to-use suggestions.

—Kathy Gee