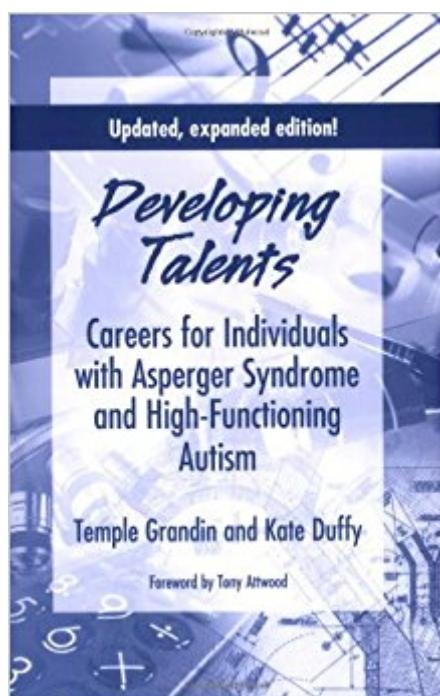


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Developing Talents: Careers For Individuals With Asperger Syndrome And High-functioning Autism- Updated, Expanded Edition



Synopsis

This updated and expanded edition considers the continuing dismal employment statistics for individuals with ASD. The authors take an in-depth look at entrepreneurship. Using real-life examples, they point out that many of the unique characteristics of individuals on the autism spectrum lend themselves well to entrepreneurial ventures. The book explores many unnoticed aspects of Vocational Rehabilitation programs that provide job training and placement for people with disabilities, as well as Social Security Administration programs that offer vocational assistance. Employment figures and prospects have been updated, and new jobs have been added that are well suited for those on the spectrum.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is Temple Grandin's most practical and generous work yet. She offers so very much of herself and her real life experiences. Kate Duffy's compassion, empathy and positive attitude pervade the very fiber of this book. The guidelines and suggestions are clear, creative and useful in real-life application. The many specific examples of real people with AS in their careers are invaluable, especially to the AS population. While the book was written for people with AS, it is an essential work for anyone who cares for, teaches, employs or works with someone on the spectrum. It will go to the top of my recommended reading list! --Sue Moreno, founder and president, Maap Services Inc.

TEMPLE GRANDIN, Ph.D., is an animal scientist who designs livestock-handling facilities worldwide and is an assistant professor of animal sciences at Colorado State University. A frequent lecturer on autism, she is the author of *Emergence: Labeled Autistic, Thinking in Pictures* and other publications. KATE DUFFY has owned her own writing business for 16 years in addition to working as a writing and business instructor.

Helpful, but has much the same information that other job/career finding books have. Dress well, keep clean, and don't overreact to stressful situations. If you like numbers and have a hard time getting along with people, be an accountant, etc. If you have poor social skills, gravitate towards work that does not require extensive people skills. This book provided some good examples with several first hand accounts of what worked for successful Aspies. I've tried many of the suggestions in the book such as letting people know I don't have strong people skills, but it rarely works. If the employer matches skills to jobs, you don't need this book to facilitate that. If the employer wants to force ill-matched people to certain jobs, nothing is going to change that. While this was geared toward folks in the Asperger's realm, it didn't provide much more than what similar books provide. Yes, it is a good book, but it is nothing special. Recommended, but not highly recommended.

"Developing Talents: Careers for Individuals with Asperger Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism", by Temple Grandin and Kate Duffy. APC(Autism Asperger Publishing Co.), KS 2004. ISBN 1-93-1282-56-0 Pbk. 140/153 pages includes 5 pgs. Ref., and Append. 3 pgs., 6 pgs. Disclosure, & 9 pgs. Job tips and development. Some charts, no illustrations. 9" x 6". A carefully written and documented treatise on practical methods to nurture, acquire and maintain employment of individuals with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorders) and especial reference to those having Asperger's Syndrome, i.e., a high or higher-functioning level of autism either with or without specific talents. The authors have particular first-hand knowledge of ASD by either being affected or children with autistic traits. So, yes, this is a "how to" book that should prove to be an important informational guide on structuring realistic avenues that can lead to eventual employment in the workforce, clearly pointing out the need for early intervention (parents), focusing on development of talents into marketable skills and managing the environmental and social factors that may be devastating to those potentially employable ASDs using mentors whenever possible. The writers have skillfully outlined the many basic problems encountered in ASD together with mitigating means to overcome such difficulties. In ASD there is a neurological disability which often is manifest via magnitude,

separation, and response of the various sense modalities (touch, taste, sound, visual). This imbalance and admixture or crossing-over of sensory modalities is associated with frustrations, anger, withdrawal, and distraction from mild stimuli such as fluorescent light flickering, roughness of clothing, strong scents and includes avoidance of eye contact, crowds, and careless grooming, etc. Using "white noise", gum chewing, exercise, soft clothing, incandescent bulbs, tinted glasses, "counting to 10" and counseling can do wonders. Using networking, hobbies, portfolio creation, and focusing on improving enjoyed skills can lead to successful employment. The appendix briefly covers the ADA of 1990 and many available resources. Authors point out many of the computer nerds or geeks are believed to have Asperger, that many have exceptional skills to contribute to society as a whole, the caveat being that their societal integration faces many pitfalls which can be avoided or cushioned, and these are succinctly spelled out in this manual. With statistics revealing that upwards of 1 in 166 children are currently diagnosed with ASD, it is a certainty you will undoubtedly encounter many of them in the schools, workplace, gatherings, and etc., ergo this guide is helpful for all.

As a recent college graduate with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), this book gave me some really good advice about how to get into a career through the 'back-door.' Though I do reasonably well during interviews, the suggestion to supplement an interview with a portfolio was very useful because I can include a link to it on my thank-you emails to interviewers. This way, they have another way to gauge my work rather than relying on what I say or do not say. I thought the worksheets for the informational interviews were helpful along with the chart mapping out special challenges of ASD in the workplace and how one would cope with them. Recognizing my limitations in the workplace and coping with them has helped me be more productive in my current work environment.

If you have an Aspergers. or work with one, this is a good read. You must think a bit differently, and utilize their existing gifts, which they most definitely have, to encourage and steer into a productive direction. Just because they have a label, doesn't mean they can't have a productive, enjoyable life, but they must learn skills, esp. social. This is a good place to start to see the potential of many ppl. Personally, i wish they would stop calling ppl that are different, disabled....it tends to promote victimhood, instead of resourcefulness and victory...

Excellent resources sited for those with, and those helping those with, Asperger Syndrome as they

look for suitable life-long employment. Grandin acknowledges the improved self-worth of those who are able to find meaningful employment. Any parent could benefit from the general guidance given to help a child build on their strengths, work on their weaknesses, and navigate the world of work. Many of the suggestions seemed common-sense; it was good to have all of them in one place. All suggestions are relatively easy to do, and a wide variety of possibilities were sited. Thanks, Temple Grandin, for sharing yourself and experiences.

Temple Grandin is the most significant person in autism studies in the previous and present centuries. She ranks alongside Helen Keller in her abilities to speak on behalf of those who cannot speak or those whose words or ideas are ignored. This book explores the facts that autistic people, young and old, like all other human beings, have talents and abilities with which they can serve themselves, their families, and--yes--the country at large. Examples from her other works like *THINKING IN PICTURES*, *MY LIFE WITH AUTISM* include people with autistic characters such as Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein.

I had high hopes for this book. It didn't help me whatsoever. Disappointed, as I was needing some career guidance. I think it will help a lot of those on the spectrum, but for me, it didn't work :(

good resource book that has helped me with job prospects and learning to work with people on a professional level. I learned a few more things about how I handle issues and the workplace.

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