

## When Down Syndrome and Autism Intersect: A Guide to DS-ASD for Parents and Professionals

Margaret Froehlke, Robin Zaborek

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While it's well known that the incidence of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is skyrocketing in the general population, it's less well known that ASD is even more common in people with Down syndrome.

When Down Syndrome and Autism Intersect offers a thorough examination of the unique profile of a Down Syndrome-Autism Spectrum Disorder (DS-ASD) diagnosis and best practices for screening, treatment, and caretaking through the lifespan. This one-stop resource, the first of its kind, will greatly benefit families whose child is already diagnosed, and also those who suspect something more than Down syndrome. Professionals, too, will find information on how to distinguish DS-ASD from a diagnosis of just Down syndrome, and guidance on providing services for children and adults.

The editors and chapter authors are seasoned parents, advocates, doctors, dentists, psychologists, behavior analysts, nurses, educators, and financial planners. They share their experiences and expertise on the following topics:

- -Diagnosis
- -Emotional Adjustment & Support
- -Genetics
- -Medical Concerns (health problems common in Down syndrome and ASD, conditions that can be missed when ASD is not recognized--reflux, pneumonia, hypothyroidism)
- -When Autism is Suspected for Teens and Adults with DS (often misdiagnosed as mental health problems)
- -Making the Most of Doctor Visits (coordinated, team approach to care)
- -What Autism Looks Like in a Child with Down Syndrome (comparing behavior of kids with DS-only to that of kids with DS-ASD at different ages using case studies)
- -Oral Health (tips & strategies to ensure cooperation during dental visits)
- -Behavioral Treatments for Sleep Problems
- -Care Coordination (the management of a child's needs across the entire care continuum)
- -Addressing Problem Behaviors
- -Designing Educational Programs
- -Multicultural Challenges (best practices to serve the needs of minority populations)
- -Life Planning (legal, financial, and quality-of-life issues)

Parents and professionals who previously had to piece together information about DS-ASD from sources about each separate condition can now rely on this groundbreaking book to understand and navigate the complexities and challenges of DS-ASD.



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