Celebrate Autism Acceptance Month with Inclusive Services!

Check out these books:

**Picture Books:**

*A day with no words*, written by Tiffany Hammond, illustrated by Kate Cosgrove (2023). Ages 4-8.

This colorful and engaging picture book shares what life looks like for a family who uses nonverbal communication, following a Black mother and her autistic child as they go about their day.


Riley, a young white neurodivergent boy, knows plenty of great ways to play, but bossy cousin Emma thinks all those ways are wrong. Fortunately, Charlie the dog is on hand to help with a breakthrough demonstration that there are many ways to play, and all of them are right.


Benjamin Giroux, an autistic, white ten-year-old boy, wrote this affecting poem about the experience of being different for a fifth-grade school assignment. Here it is paired with MacLean’s gentle, sensitive illustrations.


Trinity, an autistic, Black, transgender girl, wishes she had long hair, but growing it out is a struggle because she hates the sensation of hair touching her neck. Her mother helps figure out a solution, in this story based on the experiences of this real-life mother-daughter duo.


Young neurodivergent child of color Verity greets their neighbors and other community members, responding to their question of “how are you?” with exciting marine animal facts. When their older brother John suggests that the question is usually considered a

Inclusive Services

April 2024
greeting rather than a genuine question, Verity leads an experiment. This story draws on the author’s own childhood experiences and special interest.


This playful book turns the traditional framing of books about disability on its head, explaining the strange quirks of a white autistic boy’s neurotypical best friend.

**School-Age Fiction:**


When she discovers that her small Scottish town used to burn witches simply because they were different, a white autistic girl who sees and hears things others cannot, and who deals with her own bullying due to being different, refuses to let them be forgotten.


After the death of his best friend and the only other trans boy at school, Noah, an autistic boy of Irish and Italian descent, starts writing letters expressing his feelings to the cryptid Mothman, who his best friend believed was real. This story is told in verse alternating with letters addressed to Mothman.


Autistic, Ashkenazi Jewish 13-year-old Ellen sets off on a study abroad trip full of anxiety, but it turns out to be a wonderful setting to explore their gender and sexuality, as well as to make new friends.


This eerie and magical coming-of-age graphic novel follows best friends Val, who is white and autistic, and Lanie, who is Vietnamese American and trans, as they team up to save the world from a mysterious evil force.


Allie, a troubled white eighth grader who is getting over a tragedy, is assigned to the robotics team led by Evelyn, a white, autistic perfectionist who is determined to win the upcoming competition. Allie must figure out how to convince Evelyn to allow the whole team to play to their strengths.

Inclusive Services

April 2024
Children’s Nonfiction:


This highly illustrated, heartfelt, and hilarious memoir depicts Balfe’s journey of growing up as a white, autistic, bisexual girl in England and navigating the “normal” world around her.


Jennifer Cook provides a road map for autistic kids in this funny and insightful “handbook,” designed based on her own experience growing up as a white autistic girl and raising three “Asperkids.”


This chapter book biography, written by an autistic author, chronicles the extraordinary life of Temple Grandin, a white American scientist, animal behavior expert, and autistic self-advocate and activist.

Teen Fiction:


A queer, Mexican-American autistic teen who experiences selective mutism struggles to contextualize her first sexual encounter, while the boy involved, Luis, spreads rumors about her throughout the school. But when an unknown classmate reaches out inviting her to join a group of people who have all been wronged by Luis, things may be about to change for the better.


Sam, a white autistic nonbinary eighteen-year-old, moves with their supportive Black adoptive father to a new town and finds friends in the LGBTQ+ club. When the group must come together to solve a decades-old murder of a teenage boy, it brings up demons from Sam’s past.


Inclusive Services
As an autistic overachiever, Margo, who is white & Jewish, is determined to ace her newly-discovered gayness. All she needs is the right tutor. She strikes a deal with her classmate Abbie, who she will tutor in US History in exchange for “Queer 101” lessons.


Trying to hide her autism, a Palestinian-Canadian teen creates a list of goals to help navigate her first year of high school, but she’s forced to go off script when two different boys steal her heart.


Shipped away to a finishing school and sanatorium in 1883 after a failed attempt to escape an arranged marriage, a white autistic trans teen is pulled into a mystery of disappearing students whose spirits remain at the school, screaming for his help, in this historical horror-mystery.


Inspired by the theory that changeling folklore was originally created to explain the existence of autism, this fantasy novel follows two sisters on the run who were cast out of their village due to prejudice against Seelie, an autistic changeling who is cued as Latina.

**Teen Non-fiction:**


With helpful explanations, tips, activities, and examples of famous trans and gender-divergent people on the autism spectrum, this guide exists to help readers navigate the world as autistic trans teens. Both authors are white non-binary autistic people living in Australia.


This is a moving and at times funny story of how it feels to be neurodivergent, written by a white autistic Australian actress known for starring in the Netflix series Heartbreak High. It also serves as a practical guide, with advice for living with meltdowns and shutdowns, tips for finding supportive communities, and much more.

Inclusive Services

April 2024

Like many others on the autism spectrum, white 20-something stand-up comic Michael McCreary has been told by more than a few well-meaning folks that he doesn’t "look" autistic. But, as he’s quick to point out in this unique and hilarious memoir, autism "looks" different for just about everyone.


Through alternating narratives based on their own lives, Ryan Elizabeth Peete and her twin brother, RJ, who is autistic, reveal the challenges and triumphs of being a Black autistic teen and the effects on family, school, friends, and life.


This guide by a white 17-year-old neurodiversity advocate from Ireland who is autistic, dyslexic, dyspraxia and has ADHD, provides advice for autistic girls, including practical tips on friendships, dating, body image, consent, appearance, bullying, and more.

Adult Memoirs

I overcame my autism and all I got was this lousy anxiety disorder: a memoir, by Sarah Kurchak (2020).

A white Canadian autistic writer’s memoir describes the detrimental effects of pretending to be normal, and is her impassioned call to redefine what is considered a “successful” life.

Strong female character, by Fern Brady (2023).

Diagnosed with autism at the age of thirty-four, Fern Brady, a white, bisexual autistic woman who is also one of the UK’s most popular comedians, reflects on the ways her undiagnosed autism influenced her youth, in poignant and humorous stories.

Uncomfortable labels: my life as a gay autistic trans woman, by Laura Kate Dale (2019).

From struggling with sensory processing and learning social cues and feminine presentation, to coming out as trans during an autistic meltdown, Dale, a 20-something
gay, autistic, white British trans woman draws on her personal experiences to give a unique insight into the nuances of sexuality, gender, and autism, and how they all intersect.

_We’re not broken: changing the autism conversation_, by Eric Garcia (2021).

Journalist Eric Garcia, who is Latino and autistic, aims to show what it’s like to be autistic across America (and how the country is failing autistic children and adults) in this book which mixes policy analysis, reporting, and personal experience.

**Other Adult Non-fiction:**


From artist and curator Bex Ollerton comes an anthology featuring comics from thirty autistic creators, mostly based in the U.K., about their experiences of living in a world that doesn’t always understand or accept them.

_Sincerely, your autistic child: what people on the autism spectrum wish their parents knew about growing up, acceptance, and identity_, edited by Emily Paige Ballou, Sharon daVanport, and Morénike Giwa Onaiwu.(2021).

In this book, autistic people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, socioeconomic, and gender backgrounds talk about what they wish their own parents had known when they were growing up, and what they most want all parents to know about raising autistic kids today.

_Spectrums: autistic transgender people in their own words_, by Maxfield Sparrow (2020).

Written by autistic trans people from around the world, this collection of personal essays edited by Max Sparrow, a white autistic transmasculine person, reveals the struggles and joys of living at the intersection of neurodivergence and gender diversity.

_Unmasking autism: discovering the new faces of neurodiversity_, by Devon Price (2022).

Price, a white transgender man who is a psychologist, professor, and proud autistic person, explores the phenomenon of masking (a common coping mechanism is which autistic people hide their identifiably autistic traits to fit in), and offers tips and exercises for unmasking.