

Preface

This book was written to share information on the ways technology tools can be used to structure academic content, facilitate visual information processing, and support children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As I worked with my son and other children with ASD, I noticed that all of the children were interested in technology tools, and each child had preferences for certain tools and programs. I wanted to explore these areas to better understand the technology-using behaviors of the children. While I worked with children in the Technology and Applied Research in Autism (TARA) Lab, parents shared their insight on the appeal of technology, how their children used their favorite tools, and the educational challenges they faced in school settings. I began interviewing parents to find out more about how they were using technology and how it was used in the schools their children attended. I discovered that most of the children were not using technology a great deal in school. As I thought more about this, I embarked on this project to explain some of the technologies and the ways they could be applied in home and school settings. In this book, I explain some of the dominant theories in ASD, characteristics of learners with ASD, and technologies that may be of assistance. Realistic examples, comments from parents, worksheet examples, a list of resources, and tips for working with learners with ASD are interspersed throughout the book to help readers understand the needs of students living with the challenges of ASD.

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Technology for Learners with Autism Spectrum
Disorders

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2015, XV, 99 p. 18 illus., 17 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-05980-8