Chapter 24

Conclusions

You have learned what I know about autism spectrum disorder: that autism is a description of a developmental unfolding, that there are multiple causes that lead to these behavioral symptoms, and that there is much that can be done to help children with ASD. You have the ability to diagnose classic cases of ASD, and knowledge to care for these children over their lifetime.

What I hope most is that you take away a positive attitude toward children with ASD. All children have value; some children need more help to realize their potential. I hope that you think about creating success for children with ASD and that you help steer families away from punitive reactions that create failure and toward positive interactions that foster social learning.

I hope that you have thought a bit about what it might feel like to have autism, and can acknowledge the struggle that these children and their families have to face. I hope that you know that hard work over the long haul is what pays off in the end for the parents and the children both. There are no magic cures.

I wish for children with ASD that they have primary care providers, who recognize and respect their differences and who can offer positive support to them. Every child deserves the chance to be all that they can be, and our job is to open the doors to information, resources, and support to make that happen.

Thank you for your attention, and I hope this has been helpful.

Tina Iyama-Kurtycz, MD, FAAP
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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