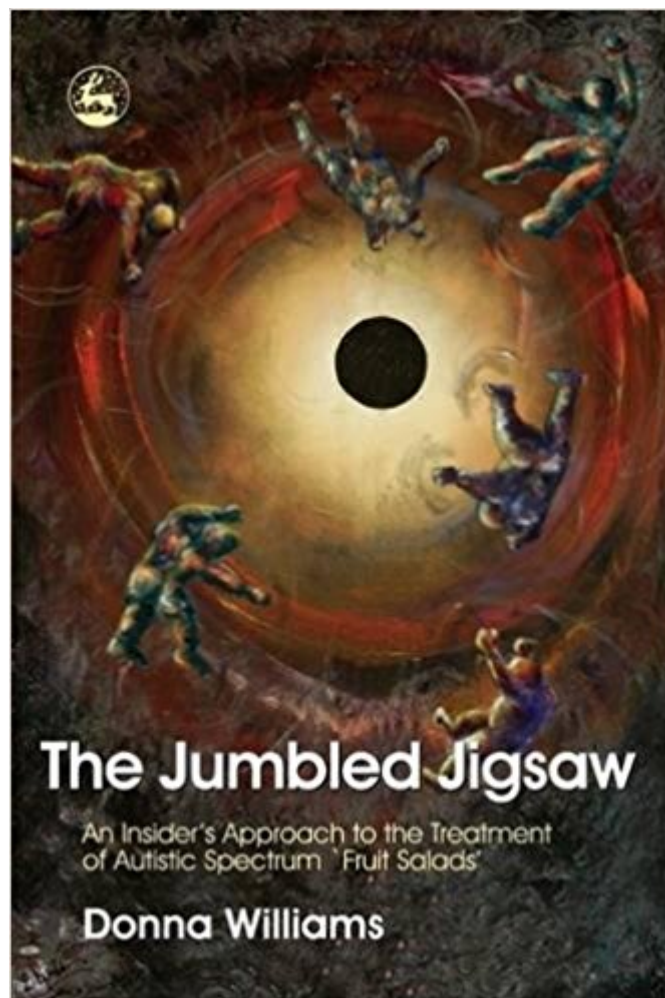




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# The Jumbled Jigsaw: An Insider's Approach To The Treatment Of Autistic Spectrum 'Fruit Salads'



## Synopsis

The Jumbled Jigsaw exposes autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) not as single entities but as a combination of a whole range of often untreated, sometimes easily treatable, underlying conditions. Exploring everything from mood, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive and tic disorders to information processing and sensory perceptual difficulties, including dependency issues, identity problems and much more, Donna demonstrates how a number of such conditions can combine to form a 'cluster condition' and underpin the label 'autism spectrum disorder'. Donna Williams encourages and empowers families to look at what they can do to change their child's environment to address anxiety, overload and other issues. She also gives carers the necessary information to navigate the booming autism marketplace and demand the right tools for the job. The author also challenges professionals to adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to identifying and treating the cluster conditions that make up an autism spectrum diagnosis, and to improve service delivery to those in need. The Jumbled Jigsaw is a call to modern society to take responsibility and accept diversity. It is written in a very human and user-friendly way for parents and for Auties and Aspies themselves, but it is also aimed at carers, professionals, policy-makers and service providers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I would definitely use this book in a class I was going to teach to either parents or future clinicians. This book is very interesting and packed with case examples, interesting stories, and reader-friendly

language that makes it easier for professionals and laypeople alike to understand. I encourage anyone who works with children with disabilities to read it to begin to put together the pieces of the puzzle that diagnoses like autism and autism spectrum disorder create for a child with this disability. No matter what language is used, helping a child create a better world for himself or herself is all that should matter. -- PsycCRITIQUES Pleasure and repeated cries of "eureka" were my reactions to reading this book in which Donna Williams explains the reality of difficulties I had witnessed in children on the autistic spectrum. I particularly liked the description of autistic spectrum disorders as a fruit salad - containing a range a range of ingredients in varying quantities, giving a distinct taste each time. -- Community Care The Jumbled Jigsaw: An Insider's Approach to the Treatment of Autistic Spectrum 'Fruit Salads,' by Donna Williams, covers topics that will inform and educate practitioners along with educators of future practitioners who may want to use this book in their classrooms. I can imagine this book being used by counselling, clinical, and school psychologists who need to become better informed about the issues faced by parents of a child with this diagnosis. The book is user friendly and is easy to read. The author's writing style, coupled with language that is easy to understand, makes this a book that could be easily used by both professionals and families of children with this diagnosis... I feel this book does a wonderful job of explaining things to parents, and from a parent's point of view. Throughout the book, the author uses phrases that start with "I." This makes the book real to people, and they can begin to imagine the author actually in the situation being described. I would definitely use this book in a class I was going to teach to either parents or future clinicians. This book is very interesting and packed with case examples, interesting stories, and reader-friendly language that makes it easier for professionals and laypeople alike to understand. -- PsycCRITIQUES of the American Psychological Association The real strength of the book is to challenge practitioners to go beyond the label of autism in order to be a real help; I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book as it was challenging on every page, I think it will appeal to practitioners with a wide experience of children with autism and other complex mixtures of difficulties that do not fit neatly into conventional labels. As Donna herself commented her ideas will interest those with an open mind and holistic perspective. -- NAPLIC

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Donna is a bona fide genius of autism. I don't know why the psychiatrists, psychologists and doctor's of all descriptions aren't hammering down her door to pick her brain on how to understand autism better. I mean she HAS autism, had no meaningful language till 9 years - who else to ask how it feels, what it looks like and means to live with autism? She is a very sensory person whose ability to empathise is very strong and in some ways it seems was hard won. Her work changed my son and family's life for the better. Essential reading - especially for those whose kids aren't as visual or who don't act like Temple Grandin! Her ability to compassionately break autistic and other behaviours into mentally edible parts is a joy to read. I had a highlighter with me the whole way

through the book.

Invaluable book for any parent who is having trouble understanding what makes their autistic child tick. Very informative and helpful.

This book is a masterpiece! I'm not easily impressed and I've read many books on autism, this one is head and shoulders above them all. There is a HUGE amount of information packed into this book covering everything from dietary and environmental influences to anxiety, mood and personality disorders which all cluster together and underpin an individual's ASD. Describing it as a "fruit salad" with each individual having different pieces making up their ASD is genius. It is a book you will return to again and again for help and understanding. I think a good basic knowledge of Autism would be an advantage before reading this book or else it may blow your mind, but I think everyone should read it, in fact I'd say it is essential to gain a far deeper understanding of ASD, there are so many stereotypes and misunderstandings that Donna has successfully smashed. Every person who has a child/spouse/relative/student/friend on the spectrum, individuals who have ASD and professionals who work in this field would all greatly benefit from this book it is worth its weight in gold, this book does not get anywhere near the recognition it deserves, it should be winning awards!!! Thank you Donna Williams for sharing your incredible insight and experience, this book is a much needed gift to the world.

This is an excellent book for parents, educators and other professionals who teach/live/work with people who have autism. The "jumbled jigsaw" is what is so sadly misunderstood and mislabelled by many; sadly, many such "experts" apply the Procrustean Bed tactics to the autistic population. This helps none and hurts all. Raun Kaufman, the child for whom "Son-Rise" and "Son-Rise II: The Miracle Continues" was written, said in "Son-Rise II" that "expert" is the biggest misnomer for that very reason above. He was diagnosed with severe autism in infancy and for the first nearly three years of his life displayed behavior suggestive of Kanner's Autism. Early intervention turned the tide for Raun; now an adult, he has no residual behaviors or tendencies of this neurobiological condition. He is also currently the CEO of a company. Raun rightfully points out that had many people listened to these so called "experts" who recommended institutionalizing people with autism, many rays of light and hope would never shine. Raun Kaufman; Walker Stacey; Gunilla Gerland; Sean Barron; Tony Randazzo; Ben Levinson; Jeremy Kephart; Ryan Hamilton; Georgiana Thomas; Donna Williams and countless others whose stories we don't know have provided the Voice of Hope for

many. Each of these above people had or still have autism to varying degrees; each have either written or have been the subject of biographies about living with autism. Each one of these people and countless others have lent their voices; their experiences and their explanations of autism so as to help encourage tolerance. Donna Williams and her scholarly books, this included have certainly helped move that process along. Had the so called experts' advice been followed, think of the loss we would all be suffering today. Just read Annabelle Stehli's books about people who have been successfully treated with Auditory Integration Therapy and who are no longer autistic; Karyn Seroussi's and Lynn Hamilton's sons were successfully treated with a special diet as was Tony Randazzo, who had an allergy to milk. Patricia Stacey's son Walker Stacey and two of Catherine Maurice's children were eased of the autism spectrum with ABA and Floor Time. Jane McDonnell's son Paul ("News From the Border") offers his own insights into living with autism; he was helped by general acceptance from others and his own desire to adapt to the neurotypical world. Paul was informally treated with ABA; he was able to see what constituted acceptable behavior, yet at the same time recognize his autistic tendencies and keep them in check. This is still another valuable book that the world at large needs. The point is, autism is as varied as there are individuals who have it and so the approaches have to be tailored to meet each individual's needs. Instead of dismissing people with autism as their label, Ms. Williams has once again brilliantly demonstrated how important it is to encourage talents and interests. She is married; an artist and author as well as having a plethora of credentials. Her works are valuable and needed; this book deserves a place of honor. At present the count is 1 in every 150 births...autism is on the rise. There is a real need for literature like this and the sensible approaches that Ms. Williams has written about here and in her other works. Autism does effect everybody on Planet Earth - whether or not you have autism, there is a 100% chance that you are related to someone who does or work with someone who does or just know somebody on the spectrum. Autism is an in-your-face condition that is all the more prominent due to the increase in statistics. Institutionalizing people creates a silent underclass. It appears to do no good and is not an effective method in "treating" autism. Autism is not a mental illness; it is a sensory neurobiological condition that affects sensory responses and language. I've beaten on the Different Drum for years to get that message across and Donna Williams brilliantly accomplishes that in her books. Be sure to read this and buy some extra copies to give to others. We all need it.

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