Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) affect around 1 in every 100–110 people worldwide. Individuals with ASD require encouragement, management and support from family members, medical practitioners, schools and communities as they grow and learn.

ACER is a leading provider of assessments and resources for those involved in the diagnosis, support, development and care of individuals with ASD.
Autism Detection in Early Childhood (ADEC)

Autism Detection in Early Childhood (ADEC) is an extremely effective, validated screening tool for identifying autism and autistic tendencies in children as young as 12 months. Until now, autism has typically gone undiagnosed in younger children due to a lack of awareness of the behaviours that can indicate autism in preverbal children. ADEC clearly identifies and details these behaviours. Those at risk can be screened and referred for a more formal diagnosis, enabling much-needed support at an early stage of development – an important contributor to successful intervention.

ADEC consists of a manual, a training DVD, a score sheet for each child assessed and stimulus materials.

Features and benefits:
- Ability to screen children as young as 12 months for autism or autistic tendencies.
- Can be used with little training by general practitioners, maternal healthcare nurses, allied healthcare professionals, psychologists, therapists and special needs educators.
- Assists in identifying specific behaviours that require intervention.
- Able to discriminate autistic behaviours from learning disabilities and other developmental disorders with a high level of sensitivity and specificity.

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CASE STUDY

AB

AB was referred to me by a paediatrician, who thought he (AB) might be demonstrating autistic symptomology. AB was aged 38 months at that time and his score on the ADEC was 17 with a Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) score of 30. On observation, AB showed some joint attention behaviours such as gaze switching but this was inconsistent. Although he attempted to follow a point, he didn’t really know where to look. He responded to a verbal command but only after a delay. He cuddled and showed gestures. Although he would move from one task to another, I found it difficult to engage him. His receptive language was poor and he had no expressive language. Both tests and behavioural observations supported the diagnosis of [an autism spectrum disorder]. This was supported by two independent practitioners. AB’s parents received immediate training in behaviour management. Then AB commenced intensive behavioural intervention aged 41 months. At a 20-week follow-up, AB’s score on the ADEC was 3 and his CARS score was 22.5. By age 4, AB could express himself using single-word utterances, and his functional and pretend play skills had improved dramatically. He attended full-time kindergarten and, from all reports, was doing well and only presenting with a few autistic behaviours.

– ADEC Manual, p. 44

‘The ADEC is simple to use’ – Junior Horizons

Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R)

WPS

acerc.edu.au/shop-ADIR

The Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R) provides a thorough assessment of individuals suspected of having autism or other autism spectrum disorders. It has proven highly useful for formal diagnosis as well as treatment and educational planning.

Features and benefits:

• Composed of 93 items, the ADI-R focuses on three functional domains:
  - Language and Communication
  - Reciprocal Social Interactions
  - Restricted, Repetitive and Stereotyped Behaviours and Interests.

• Very effective in differentiating autism from other developmental disorders and in assessing syndrome boundaries, identifying new subgroups and quantifying autistic symptomatology.

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<td>757SW</td>
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The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule — Second Edition (ADOS-2)

Assesses and diagnoses autism spectrum disorders across age, developmental level and language skills.

**Features and benefits:**

- With updated protocols, revised algorithms, a new Comparison Score and a Toddler Module, the ADOS-2 provides a highly accurate picture of current symptoms, unaffected by language.
- Can be used to evaluate almost anyone suspected of having ASD, from one-year-olds with no speech to adults who are verbally fluent.

The ADOS-2 includes five modules:

- **Toddler Module:** for children between 12 and 30 months of age who do not consistently use phrase speech
- **Module 1:** for children 31 months and older who do not consistently use phrase speech
- **Module 2:** for children of any age who use phrase speech but are not verbally fluent
- **Module 3:** for verbally fluent children and young adolescents
- **Module 4:** for verbally fluent older adolescents and adults

*Note: Upgrades are designed to supplement the original ADOS test materials and cannot be used alone. You must own ADOS Test Materials for Modules 1–4 if you are buying an upgrade package. If you do not own these materials, you must buy an ADOS-2 Kit.
CASE STUDY

Module 2: Harry

Harry is a six-year-old boy who received a diagnosis of ASD from a statewide early intervention project when he was two years old. Harry and his family were recruited to participate in a genetics study of ASD. As part of the study protocol, Harry's family participated in a research evaluation to confirm Harry's diagnosis of ASD. Harry's parents completed a parent interview and a number of questionnaires. Harry was administered a cognitive test (Differential Ability Scales – Second Edition [DAS-2; Elliot, 2007]) and the ADOS-2.

On the DAS-2, Harry received a Verbal Cluster score of 70 and a Nonverbal Cluster score of 90, indicating Borderline verbal abilities and Average nonverbal abilities. He was observed to use primarily phrase speech. Although Harry often used sentences that included several words, such as 'Where are you going, Daddy?' or ‘I don’t want to go to school’, he did not use complex sentences that included multiple clauses (e.g., ‘I don’t want to go to school tomorrow because I am too tired’). Module 2 was selected as the appropriate module on the basis of Harry’s expressive language level.

The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule – Second Edition (ADOS-2) Module 2 was administered to Harry for diagnostic purposes as part of a research protocol for a study of the genetics of autism. The ADOS-2 is a semi-structured, standardised assessment instrument that includes a number of play-based activities designed to obtain information in the areas of communication, reciprocal social interactions and restricted and repetitive behaviours associated with a diagnosis of ASD. Module 2 of the ADOS-2 is designed for children with phrase speech whose speech is not yet ‘fluent’ (that is, who are not yet consistently combining two relatively complex ideas together in sentences to talk about objects or events that are not present). Module 2 includes activities such as a construction task, interactive play with a family of dolls, a demonstration task, looking at a book and pictures, a pretend birthday party, bubbles and a snack.

On the basis of all of the available information, the clinician gave Harry an overall diagnosis of autism and assigned him to the ASD (as opposed to the non-ASD) diagnostic group in the genetics research project. Behavioural observations from the ADOS-2 were used to identify specific intervention targets for Harry’s speech therapy program, such as responding to others’ comments to improve conversational skills. The ADOS-2 was also important in highlighting that Harry’s interests were quite restricted, leading to the goal of increasing his variety of play behaviours.

Asperger Syndrome Diagnostic Scale (ASDS)

Pro-Ed USA
acer.edu.au/shop-ASDS

The Asperger Syndrome Diagnostic Scale (ASDS) is a quick, easy-to-use rating scale that can help you determine whether a child has Asperger’s syndrome.

Features and benefits:

- Anyone who knows the child or youth well can complete this scale, including parents, teachers, siblings, para-educators, speech and language pathologists, psychologists, psychiatrists and other professionals.
- The 50 yes/no items can be answered in 10 to 15 minutes.
- Provides an Asperger’s syndrome quotient that rates the likelihood that an individual has Asperger’s syndrome.

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Autism Spectrum Rating Scales (ASRS) – DSM-5 Update

The Autism Spectrum Rating Scales (ASRS) were designed to effectively identify symptoms, behaviours and associated features of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in children and adolescents aged 2 through 18.

Features and benefits:

- A norm-referenced assessment based on a large nationally representative sample.
- Aids in differential diagnosis among the disorders that make up the Autism Spectrum.
- Easy-to-use and convenient tool intended for psychologists, school psychologists, clinical social workers, physicians, counsellors, psychiatric workers and paediatric and psychiatric nurses.

Watch an interview with ASRS creators Dr Sam Goldstein and Dr Jack A Naglieri at [http://acer.ac/asrs](http://acer.ac/asrs)
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Childhood Autism Rating Scale
– Second Edition (CARS-2)

Since its original publication, the Childhood Autism Rating Scale – Second Edition (CARS) has become one of the most widely used and empirically validated autism assessments. It has proven especially effective in discriminating between children with autism and those with severe cognitive deficits, and in distinguishing mild-to-moderate from severe autism.

Features and benefits:

• Revised Second Edition expands the test’s clinical value by making it more responsive to individuals on the ‘high functioning’ end of the autism spectrum – those with average or higher IQ scores, better verbal skills and more subtle social and behavioural deficits.

• Retains the simplicity, brevity and clarity of the original test while adding forms and features that help to integrate diagnostic information, determine functional capabilities, provide feedback to parents and design targeted intervention.

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Gilliam Asperger’s Disorder Scale (GADS)

The Gilliam Asperger’s Disorder Scale (GADS) is a norm-referenced assessment designed to evaluate individuals with unique behaviour problems who may have Asperger’s disorder. The GADS is effective at differentiating persons with Asperger’s disorder from persons with autism and other behavioural disorders.

Features and benefits:

• Completed by a parent or professional – at school or at home – in just 5 to 10 minutes.

• The 32 clearly stated items describe specific, observable and measurable behaviours and are divided into four subscales:
  - Social Interaction
  - Restricted Patterns of Behaviour
  - Cognitive Patterns
  - Pragmatic Skills.

• Additionally, an eight-item Parent Interview Form is provided to evaluate developmental delays.

• Can also be used to monitor the effectiveness of special intervention programs, to target goals for Individualised Education Programs, and for research purposes.

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The Gilliam Autism Rating Scale (GARS-3), now in its third edition, is one of the most widely used instruments for the assessment of autism spectrum disorder in the world. The GARS-3 assists teachers, parents and clinicians in identifying autism in individuals and estimating its severity.

Features and benefits:
- Items and subscales reflect DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorder.
- Forty-four new items were added to the GARS-3.
- All six subscales have been empirically determined to be valid and sensitive for identification of children with ASD.
- Normative data (N = 1859) were collected in 2010 and 2011.
- Demographic characteristics of the normative sample are keyed to those reported by the US Bureau of the Census, 2011.
- An interpretation guide in the Examiner’s Manual allows the examiner an easy and efficient method for assessing the probability of autism spectrum disorder and the severity of the disorder.
- A diagnostic validation form is included for insuring that test results meet DSM-5 criteria for autism spectrum disorder.

Identifies symptoms, behaviours and associated features of autism spectrum disorder.

- Restricted
- 2 – 8 years
- 20 minutes
- Hand-scored

992GAR  GARS-3 Complete Kit  $275.95
502GAR  GARS-3 Examiner’s Manual  $124.95
100GAR  GARS-3 Instructional Objectives for Children Who Have Autism Manual  $59.95
601GAR  GARS-3 Summary/Response Booklets (x50)  $99.95
Monteiro Interview Guidelines for Diagnosing Asperger’s Syndrome (MIGDAS)

WPS
acer.edu.au/shop-MIGDAS

When members of the evaluation team receive an assessment referral, they complete the Pre-Interview Checklist. If the checklist indicates the need for a comprehensive evaluation, the team proceeds to the Parent and Teacher Interview, and then to the Diagnostic Student Interview, following guidelines presented in the Manual. When these three steps are complete, the team meets to discuss and interpret their findings. Using the information they have gathered, they provide feedback to parents and teachers, including a detailed narrative report with diagnostic impressions and recommendations.

Features and benefits:

- Uses sensory-based toys and focuses on the child’s interests.
- Diagnosis based on qualitative information from multiple sources.
- Based on direct interaction with the student, parents and teachers.
- Interview booklet contains detailed prompts and behavioural descriptions to guide evaluators.

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PDD Behaviour Inventory (PDDBI)

PAR
acer.edu.au/shop-PDDBI

The PDD Behaviour Inventory (PDDBI) is an informant-based rating scale that is designed to assist in the assessment of children from the age of 1 year 6 months to 12 years 5 months who have been diagnosed with a pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) as defined by the DSM-IV. PDD is characterised by severe and pervasive impairments in several areas of development (e.g., communication skills, reciprocal social interaction skills, presence of stereotypical behaviours/activities).

Features and benefits:

- Unlike existing assessments for autism/pervasive developmental disorder, the PDDBI was developed to assess both problem behaviours as well as appropriate social, language and learning/memory skills.
- Can be used as a clinical, educational or research tool.
- Designed to provide age-standardised scores for both parent and teacher ratings.
- Each rating form includes a standard set of items (124 items) or an extended set of items (180 items).
Psychoeducational Profile – Third Edition (PEP-3)

Pro-Ed USA
acer.edu.au/shop-PEP3

The Psychoeducational Profile (PEP-3) is a revision of the popular instrument that has been used for more than 20 years to assess the skills and behaviours of children with autism and communicative disabilities who function between the ages of six months to seven years.

Features and benefits:
- Graphically charts uneven and idiosyncratic development, emerging skills and autistic behavioural characteristics.
- Meets the need for an assessment tool to assist in the educational programming for young children (ages three through five) with disabilities.
- Useful in planning for older students’ Individualised Education Programs (IEPs).

Assesses the skills and behaviours of children with autism and communicative disabilities.
- Restricted
- 6 months – 7 years
- 45 – 90 minutes
- Hand-scored
Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ)

WPS

acer.edu.au/shop-SCQ

Previously known as the Autism Screening Questionnaire (ASQ), this brief instrument helps evaluate communication skills and social functioning in children who may have autism or autism spectrum disorders.

Features and benefits:

- Completed by a parent or other primary caregiver in less than 10 minutes.
- Can be used to evaluate anyone over age four, as long as their mental age exceeds two years.
- Lifetime and Current forms composed of 40 yes-or-no questions.
- Forms can be given directly to the parent, who can answer the questions without supervision.

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Social Responsiveness Scale
– Second Edition (SRS-2)

WPS
acer.edu.au/shop-SRS2

The Social Responsiveness Scale – Second Edition (SRS-2) is a highly regarded autism assessment that offers the convenience of a screener and the power of a diagnostic tool. The SRS-2 identifies social impairment associated with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and quantifies the severity. It’s sensitive enough to detect subtle symptoms, yet specific enough to differentiate clinical groups, both within the autism spectrum and between ASD and other disorders. With an expanded age range, the SRS-2 can be used to monitor symptoms throughout the lifespan.

Features and benefits:
• Unparalleled evidence of validity – across the lifespan and across cultures, nationalities and clinical groups.
• Expanded age range from 2.5 years through adulthood.
• Four forms: School-Age, Preschool, Adult and Adult Self-Report.
• Current, nationally representative norms.
• Updated interpretive guidelines.
• Unlimited-use scoring software.

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E817 Online SRS-2 Comprehensive Kit $495.00
E818 Online SRS-2 Child/Adolescent Kit $334.99
E819 Online SRS-2 Adult Kit $334.99
Structured Program for Early Childhood Therapists Working with Autism (SPECTRA)

Dr Robyn Young, Carrie Partington and Talya Goren | ACER
acer.edu.au/shop-SPECTRA

The Structured Program for Early Childhood Therapists Working with Autism (SPECTRA) provides psychologists, special needs teachers, therapists and early childhood educators working with children aged 18 months to 6 years with autism spectrum disorder a developmental framework as well as step-by-step instructions on how to implement a behaviour program to teach autistic children a comprehensive range of skills, starting with skills that are typically lacking in these children.

SPECTRA works on positive reinforcement, not punishment, to increase the occurrence of positive behaviours.

SPECTRA includes:
A progress map and simple checklists that allow you to identify the child’s developmental level, skills mastered and areas that need attention and learning.

Specific exercises and activities covering a wide range of learning areas including communication and daily living skills.

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- A progress map and simple checklists that allow you to identify the child’s developmental level, skills mastered and areas that need attention and learning.

Specific exercises and activities covering a wide range of learning areas including communication and daily living skills.

Photocopy masters for designing a program and tracking progress.
A Discrete Trial

A teaching session with a child involves many trials within a particular exercise, with each trial having a distinct beginning and end; hence this is often referred to as discrete trial teaching. Each part of the skill must be mastered before more information is presented. In discrete trial teaching, a very small unit of information is presented and the child’s response is immediately sought. Discrete trial teaching ensures that learning is an active process. Children with autism do not typically absorb information through passive exposure. As a result, their teaching needs to be more structured, direct and explicit, as shown below.
Autism Conversations

Marilyn J Monteiro, PhD | WPS
acer.edu.au/shop-AutismConversations

**Autism Conversations** presents an authentic, individualised and accurate way to evaluate children who may have autism or Asperger’s syndrome. Based on thousands of real-world evaluations, **Autism Conversations** opens up and improves the assessment process, looking at aspects of autism not adequately covered by current diagnostic criteria. The book demonstrates that conversation among evaluators, teachers, parents and children is vital to accurate diagnosis. It also gently guides parents through the diagnostic process, which many find complicated and emotionally draining.

**Features and benefits:**

- Using vivid case examples, Dr Monteiro presents an evaluation approach that yields a detailed, nuanced picture of each child, leading to more individualised intervention.
- Includes instructions for creating a clear and specific portrait of each child and guidelines for developing individualised recommendations for parents and teachers.

$49.95

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I am AspienGirl: The unique characteristics, traits and gifts of young females on the spectrum

Tania Marshall | Aspiengirl
acer.edu.au/shop-Aspiengirl

Written by 2015 ASPECT Autism Australia National Recognition Award Nominee (Advancement Category) Tania A Marshall, and winner of the 2015 eLIT Gold Medal Award, **I Am AspienGirl** showcases the unique characteristics, traits and gifts of young females on the Autism Spectrum.

**What traits and gifts make this group of girls so unique and often misunderstood?**

**I Am AspienGirl** helps those with or those working with girls with Asperger’s syndrome by using a strengths-based approach to introduce the female profile of characteristics.

This book is ideal for the general population, the autism community, individuals with autism, family members of those with autism and education staff and professionals.

$24.99
I am AspienWoman: The unique characteristics, traits and gifts of adult females on the autism spectrum

Tania Marshall | Aspiengirl
acer.edu.au/shop-AspienWoman

The book takes a look at the unique difficulties posed by being a woman with Asperger’s syndrome from diagnosis and the difficulties in spotting symptoms, to approaching puberty and perceptions of an Aspie girl.

I am AspienWoman helps those with or those working with adult females with Asperger’s syndrome or autism by using a strengths-based approach to introduce the unique adult female profile of characteristics, traits and gifts.

Making Sense of Asperger’s: A story for children

Debra Ende | ACER Press
acer.edu.au/shop-ENDE

Receiving a diagnosis of Asperger’s syndrome can be a frightening, confusing and overwhelming experience for both parents and children. In fact, many people still believe it may be better not to name or ‘label’ the syndrome in the hope that their child will settle down and learn to adapt.

Making Sense of Asperger’s: A story for children grew out of just such an experience for one seven-year-old boy. This extremely bright child was frequently in serious trouble at school but couldn’t understand why. His mother was struggling to explain that he had been diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome in a positive way so asked the author, her son’s psychologist, for guidance.

This book is the end result of this mother’s request for help. Elaborating on a previously developed analogy of Asperger’s syndrome with a computer’s operating system, this workbook, with simple text and entertaining illustrations, sets out to offer an explanation of Asperger’s as one possibility within the range of differences between all people. In a world where most people come equipped with a Standard Operating System, it seeks to explain in a validating and fun way exactly what an Asperger’s Operating System is, how it works, the compatibility issues which can arise and, most importantly, how to live with one, crashes and all.
### No More Victims: Protecting those with autism from cyber bullying, internet predators, and scams

**Jed Baker | Future Horizons**  

The digital world offers a wonderful way to communicate and socialise with others. Yet, it is also rife with the dangers of being victimised emotionally, physically and financially. This book is essential reading for parents, teachers and young adults to help prevent cyber abuse.

Trusting individuals with autism spectrum disorders, who are oftentimes socially isolated, are especially vulnerable to online predators. This title will help prepare them for the minefields they may encounter on the internet.

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### No More Meltdowns: Positive strategies for managing and preventing out-of-control behaviour

**Jed Baker | Future Horizons**  

It could happen at the grocery store. At a restaurant. At school. At home. Meltdowns are stressful for both child and adult, but Dr Baker can help! Author of the award-winning *Social Skills Picture Book* series, Dr Jed Baker offers parents and teachers strategies for preventing and managing meltdowns. His more than 20 years of experience working with children on the autism spectrum, combined with his personal experiences raising his own children, have yielded time-tested strategies, and results!

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### Overcoming Anxiety in Children and Teens

**Jed Baker | Future Horizons**  
[acer.edu.au/shop-OvercomingAnxiety](http://acer.edu.au/shop-OvercomingAnxiety)

*Overcoming Anxiety in Children and Teens* outlines both the science and art of anxiety therapy.

The science of overcoming anxiety is using the well researched approach called gradual exposure therapy which involves helping individuals gradually face their fears. The art of therapy is figuring out how to actually convince someone to face their fears.

Dr Jed Baker describes motivational techniques, cognitive behavioural strategies, exercises, relaxation and mindfulness guides to lower anxiety to the point where individuals can begin to confront their fears.

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Temple Grandin | Future Horizons
acer.edu.au/shop-TheWayISeeIt

In this innovative book, Dr Temple Grandin gets down to the real issues of autism, the ones parents, teachers and individuals on the spectrum face every day. Temple offers helpful do’s and don’ts, practical strategies and try-it-now tips, all based on her ‘insider’ perspective and a great deal of research.

The Way I See It – Second Edition
5242BK
$28.95

Different … Not Less

Temple Grandin | Future Horizons
acer.edu.au/shop-Different

One of the most important missions Temple Grandin has is making sure people with autism and Asperger’s make something of their lives. As Temple says quite bluntly, ‘Being on social security is NOT a job choice.’

This book is a compilation of 10 success stories from adults with autism and Asperger’s syndrome, who have been diagnosed late in life and who have overcome many social obstacles in order to achieve what they have in life. Handpicked by Temple herself, these individuals’ stories translate into a crusade to show those on the spectrum how it is possible to find fulfilment in life.

Many people on the autism spectrum have great potential in parts of their minds that neurotypicals never even start to tap, which is the reason Temple Grandin believes these stories of survival and, often, hidden genius, need to be shared with the world.

Different … Not Less
5289BK
$28.95
Temple Grandin: 2014 New Presentation DVD

Dr Temple Grandin has served as inspiration and role model to hundreds of thousands of families and persons with autism. Ninety minutes of the latest thinking from one of the great minds of the autism world.

Temple covers:
- How DSM-5 changes will affect you.
- The autistic brain.
- Teaching techniques that work.

700TGP

Temple Grandin: 2014 New Presentation DVD  $79.95