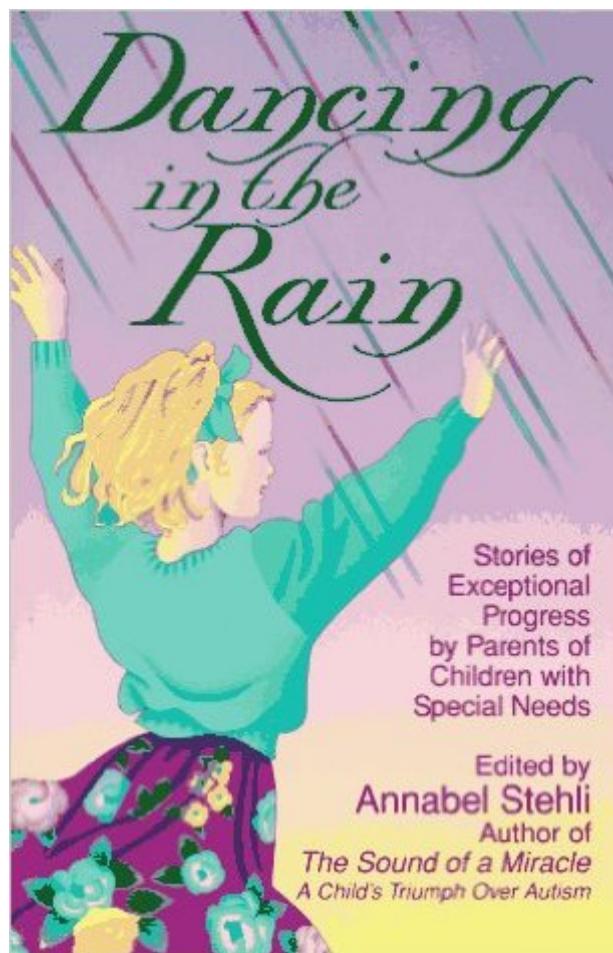


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# Dancing In The Rain: Stories Of Exceptional Progress By Parents Of Children With Special Needs



## **Synopsis**

Dancing in the Rain is a guide to the world of learning disabilities, developmental delay and autism. An inspiring and riveting selection of stories, they are written with candor and intelligence by the parents of children with special needs and edited by Annabel Stehli, author of The Sound of a Miracle (Avon). Focusing on attention deficit disorder, dyslexia, hyperlexia, pervasive developmental delay, communication delay, central auditory processing disorder, fetal alcohol syndrome and autism, here are strategies that worked in twenty-two cases. How I wish a book like this had been available when my daughter was first diagnosed. It would have made all the difference, says Annabel Stehli. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Parents are the ones who know their child(ren) best. Any information that people can acquire to help children facing special needs is welcomed and appreciated. This book is such a teaching tool. Sadly, many lay persons' knowledge of autism has been confined to the cliche character of "Rain Man." Savantism applies to roughly less than 10% of the autistic population and sadly, "Rain Man" has become a negative stereotype for people with autism. This is one of the most heartwarming, uplifting litany of successes I have had the good fortune and pleasure to read. Ms. Stehli, whose own daughter, Georgiana was labeled "autistic" is a shining beacon of success. Now married and a mother, Georgiana was nonverbal until the age of four despite having mastered all other milestones within normal age limits. She had hyper acute hearing and literally had to learn how to synthesize her sensory modes. Fluent in six languages, Georgiana is an advocate of Auditory Integration

Therapy (AIT) and is also an author on the subject. AIT is a science that targets auditory processing challenges and, from all accounts, aims to work with clients to gradually integrate what they hear into manageable units; e.g., individual words and/or sounds at one time. AIT also helps people concentrate without being distracted by other sensory modes. A Dr. Berard has made AIT a recognized science and this book, "Dancing in the Rain" brings his work to the lay reader. This book is truly a song to the soul, a cheer to the conscience and a voice of encouragement. This book is the voice of hope for many. Autism and related neurological disorders such as Aspergers and PDD are fully explained in Ms. Stehli's works.

A number of interesting accounts, but in many respects the book was unsatisfying. For a start, all the accounts presented a positive account of AIT, which Annabel Stehli has been an eloquent promoter of. It's not this I object to, but this should at least have been acknowledged in the title - perhaps a more accurate title for the book would have been "Stories of Exceptional Progress by Parents of Children with Special Needs Using AIT". Secondly, some of the progress described doesn't actually seem that exceptional. As a volunteer with autistic children, I've seen similar progress in children who weren't being subjected to any special treatments at all. Children with special needs, like all other children, grow and learn as they get older, and attributing this to whatever treatment was currently being used can be very misleading. Ultimately, a child's progress has a lot more to do with their overall education and the relative severity of their neurological disability. So maybe "Stories of Good but Not Actually That Exceptional Progress by Parents of Children with Special Needs Using AIT" ? My third point would be that the book seems to present an entirely uncritical view of any treatment that claims to "cure" autism or other neurological conditions. In fact, there seem to be so many treatments which have a positively miraculous effect that it's a miracle there are any disabled children left in the country. Parents need balanced information in order to make informed decisions about whether to subject their children to treatments which are largely unproven (and some of which have been heavily criticised by scientists). Too often, Stehli's book just seems to be acting as a free advert for any purported treatment going.

Parents are the ones who know their child(ren) best. Any information that people can acquire to help children facing special needs is welcomed and appreciated. This book is such a teaching tool. It helps dispel the tiresome cliche of "Rain Man." Sadly, many of the personal accounts show that many people's working knowledge of autism was confined to that fictional character with savant abilities. Savantism applies to roughly less than 10% of the autistic population and has ironically

become a stereotype for people with autism. This book helps move beyond "Rain Man," which does not apply to most people on the autism/Asperger's spectrum. This is one of the most heartwarming, uplifting litany of successes I have had the good fortune and pleasure to read. Ms. Stehli, whose own daughter, Georgiana was labeled "autistic" is a shining beacon of success. Now married and a mother, Georgiana was nonverbal until the age of four despite having mastered all other milestones within normal age limits. She had hyper acute hearing and literally had to learn how to synthesize her sensory modes. Fluent in six languages, Georgiana is an advocate of Auditory Integration Therapy (AIT) and is also an author on the subject. Her book, "Overcoming Autism" is currently available on her web site. It is one of the best books to date on the subject of autism. AIT is a science that targets auditory processing challenges and, from all accounts, aims to work with clients to gradually integrate what they hear into manageable units; e.g., individual words and/or sounds at one time. AIT also helps people concentrate without being distracted by other sensory modes. A Dr. Berard has made AIT a recognized science and this book, "Dancing in the Rain" brings his work to the lay reader.

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