

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Visual Support for Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders

Materials for Visual Learners

Vera Bernard-Opitz and Anne Häußler;
Foreword by Gary Mesibov, Ph.D.

With hundreds of colorful illustrations and step-by-step directions, this book lays the foundation for how to structure teaching environments using two evidence-based practices – visual support and structure. These strategies not only help individuals on the autism spectrum function more successfully during their day by building skills and creating order, they also facilitate language skills and help manage behavior.

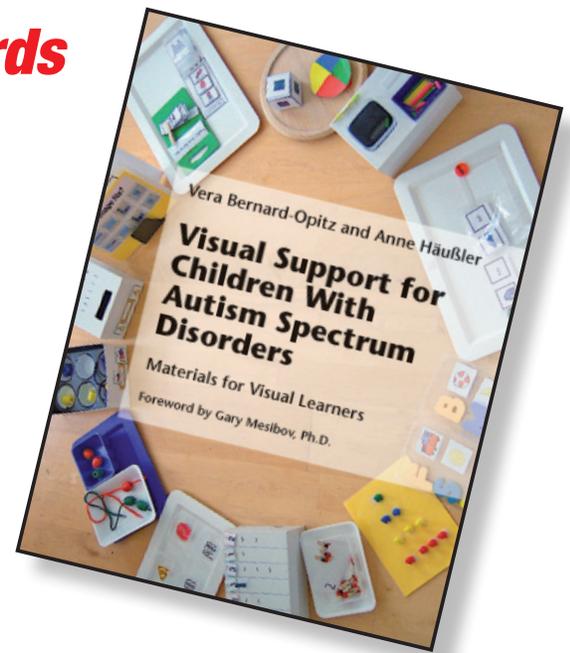
This comprehensive resource offers countless examples of activities for students, ranging from basic skills, to reading and math, to social behavior and more, through sorting, matching, assembling, disassembling, etc.

Already, the work of Vera Bernard-Opitz and Anne Häußler has gained international recognition. This English translation of their original German text is sure to become a welcome addition to the daily practices of parents, teachers and other professionals in the United States and beyond.

About the Authors

Vera Bernard-Opitz, Ph.D., has worked as a clinical psychologist, associate professor, and behavior therapist (BCBA-D) in rehabilitation centers, schools, universities, and autism centers in the United States, Singapore, and Germany. She combines her background in applied research with a passion to find individual treatment solutions based on best practice methods. For more than 15 years, she has coordinated the STEP Program in Singapore, which formed the basis for the STeP curriculum (Structured and Experience-Based Program). This program matches the main intervention methods (ABA, precision teaching, experience-based learning, and visual support) to the characteristics of children with ASD. The STeP curriculum is available in three languages. Vera also is the long-time editor of the *Autism News of Singapore* and the *Autism News of Orange County & the Rest of the World*. She currently works as an international consultant helping families, home teams, and autism centers through tele-consultation and workshops. In addition, she is supervisor for ABA teams in Southern California, reviewer for the main autism journals, and – last but not least – mother of two teenagers.

Anne Häußler, Ph.D., holds a graduate degree in special education from the German Philipps-Universität Marburg. She received her master's and Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in collaboration with the TEACCH program. As a professional, she spent two years at a regional TEACCH Center in North Carolina receiving extensive training in the TEACCH approach. After returning to Germany, she worked as a therapist in an autism treatment center. Through lectures, workshops, and numerous publications, Anne has played a key role in disseminating knowledge about TEACCH in Germany. She has developed a social skills program based on the TEACCH approach and published a book on her social skills program as well as a fundamental book on the TEACCH approach in general. In addition to working nationally and internationally as a consultant, lecturer, and trainer, Anne is co-founder and acting director of a TEACCH-based autism treatment center in Mainz, Germany.



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What Others Say ...

“Most children with autism are visual learners. That’s why *Visual Support for Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders* is the perfect resource. This book provides an abundance of visual teaching activities and materials that will be an inspiration for educators as they develop successful learning opportunities for their students with ASD.”

– Linda Hodgdon, M.Ed., CCC-SLP; author, *Visual Strategies for Improving Communication*

“This must-have book is beyond ‘comprehensive’; it’s a veritable soup-to-nuts approach to intervention! It also combines the best of both worlds – the structured teaching approach of the TEACCH model and an analytical approach to skill development. The illustrations and step-by-step instructions make setting up the environment and replicating intervention techniques an absolute cinch!”

– Diane Twachtman-Cullen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP; editor-in-chief, *Autism Spectrum Quarterly*

“Structure, visual support, empathy, and teamwork – the cornerstones of teaching in the field of ASD! Vera Bernard-Opitz and Anne Häußler have pooled their vast experience and practical know-how to present a well-organized, easy-to-use book. Clear instructions and explanations throughout, with examples as well as tips and ideas for how to design and structure tasks and activities, make this an indispensable resource for parents or professionals involved in the support of persons of all ages with ASD or other disabilities.”

– Petra Dillmann, parent of an adult with autism; founder of Autism & Asperger’s, Namibia

“Brilliant! Vera Bernard-Opitz and Anne Häußler have created a unique volume on visual support for individuals on the spectrum. The book is meticulously written and contains countless excellent examples and directions for how to structure teaching environments. It definitely belongs on the bookshelf of any practitioner who specializes in the autism spectrum and is also incredibly valuable for anyone else interested in ASD and related conditions.”

– Sven Bölte, professor, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

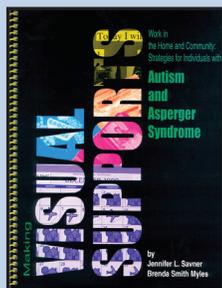
“Vera Bernard-Opitz and Anne Häußler’s book on visual strategies is of supreme quality as a resource book for designing programs for children with autism spectrum disorders. Since so many children with ASD are visual learners, practitioners, teachers, parents, and anyone who has interactions with these children will find the strategies presented in this book helpful. I personally have found the book quite helpful in my clinic. ”

– Marjorie H. Charlop, Ph.D., director, The Claremont Autism Center; professor, Department of Psychology, Claremont McKenna College

“This book serves the needs of all visual learners – both children with ASD and their teachers! While the book provides relevant teaching objectives coupled with effective visual supports for children with autism, it is also a great ‘visual’ gift for their teachers. With visual presentations of varied teaching activities as well as materials, the book presents teachers with much-sought-after creative ideas to develop effective, yet fun learning experiences. As such, this book is a ‘must-have’ for every teacher!”

– Salwanizah Mohamed Said, master teacher, Autism Intervention, Training and Consultancy (AITC), Singapore

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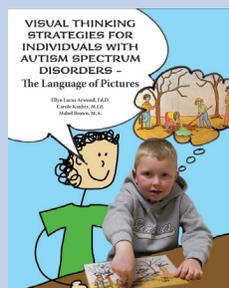


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by *Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D., and Jennifer Savner, M.S.*

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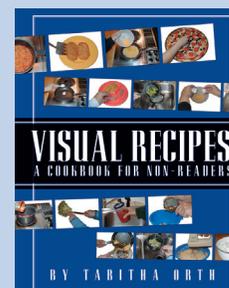


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