

Books

Brock, C (2010). **I'm a Teenager, Get Me Out of Here!: A survival guide for teenage siblings of young people with autism!** London: The National Autistic Society

Siblings' real life stories, question and answer sections, a quiz, a problem page, information about autism, advice on how to get on with all the family and ways of coping when things get difficult.

Cain, B. (2012) **Autism, the Invisible Cord: A Sibling's Diary.** Magination Press

Autism, The Invisible Cord follows 14-year-old Jenny as she describes her day-to-day life with her younger autistic brother, Ezra. Ezra can be both her best friend as well as her biggest obstacle to living a normal life, and Jenny often finds herself stuck worrying about her younger brother. Through taking care of Ezra and a very special school project, Jenny ends up learning about her own character and strengths, and a way to shine despite everything else.

Haddon, M. (2004). **The curious incident of the dog in the night-time.** London: Red Fox

Aimed at older teenagers, this is a book written from the point of view of a teenager with Asperger syndrome.

Hoopmann, K. (2003). **Haze.** London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers

For older children and teenagers, this is an exciting story about computer fraud, which has an Asperger thread running throughout.

Jarman, J. (1999). **Hangman.** London: Andersen Press

A novel for young teenagers about a boy with Asperger syndrome who is bullied while on a school trip to Normandy with potentially devastating consequences.

Keating-Velasco, J. (2008) **In his shoes, A short journey through autism.** Autism Asperger Publishing Company.

In His Shoes, readers meet Nicholas, a 13-year-old boy who has severe autism. As readers join Nick during his transition from elementary to middle school, they share his challenges and celebrate his successes both at home and at school. The book lends itself well to youth-friendly discussions for students ages 11-15, helped by a series of Points to Ponder at the end of each chapter. It is a valuable tool for classrooms, community groups and families to promote discussions about life on the autism spectrum.

Rees, C. (2000). **Truth or dare.** London: Macmillan Children's Books

A novel for young teenagers about a boy who discovers that a relative has Asperger syndrome.

Movies

Adam

Stars: Hugh Dancy, Rose Byrne, Peter Gallagher

Released: 2009

Director: Max Mayer

Length: 99 Minutes

Adam, a lonely man with Asperger's Syndrome, develops a relationship with his upstairs neighbor, Beth.

My Name is Khan

Stars: Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Sheetal Menon

Released: 2010

Director: Karan Johar

Length: 165 Minutes

From the Netherlands, the story of a Muslim man, Rizwann, who has Asperger's syndrome and is detained by authorities after 9/11 when authorities mistake his odd behaviors for suspicious terrorist behavior. He later is helped by a therapist and begins a journey to meet US President Obama to clear his name.

Mozart and The Whale

Stars: Josh Hartnett, Radha Mitchell

Released: 2005

Director: Peter Naess

Length: 94 Minutes

A love story between two savants with Asperger's syndrome whose social disparities sabotage their budding relationship. This film is based on the story of Jerry and Mary Newport.

I Am Sam

Stars: Sean Penn, Dakota Fanning, Michele Pfeiffer

Released: 1998

Director: Harold Becker

Length: 108 Minutes

The story of an autistic man living independently and functioning well in the real world until his life changes drastically when he becomes a father and is left to care for his small child.

The Other Sister

Stars: Juliette Lewis, Dianne Keaton, Giovanni Ribisi

Released: 1999

Director: Garry Marshall

Length: 127 Minutes

A girl with many autistic traits proves herself capable of living independently when she moves into an apartment and starts college.

Mercury Rising

Stars: Bruce Willis, Alec Baldwin, Miko Hughes

Released: 1998

Director: Harold Becker

Length: 108 Minutes

A brilliant 9-year-old autistic boy becomes a target for assassins after he breaks a top government code. An undercover FBI agent finds the boy hiding in his closet and protects him.

Cube

Stars: David Hewlett, Julian Richings, Helen Holloway

Released: 1997

Director: Vincenzo Natali

Length: 91 Minutes

This low-budget science-fiction drama, winner of a 1997 Toronto Film Festival prize for "Best Canadian First Feature," depicts the plight of a group of people clad in prison-style uniforms and trapped in futuristic cube-like metal cells. One of the prisoners is Kazan, an autistic man.

Forest Gump

Stars: Tom Hanks, Sally Field, Robin Wright-Penn, Gary Sinise

Released: 1994

Director: Robert Zemeckis

Length: 135 Minutes

A best-picture winner presenting a comical view of the American experience from the 1940s to the 1980s as seen through the eyes of a man with some autistic traits.

What's Eating Gilbert Grape?

Stars: Johnny Depp, Leonardo DiCaprio, Juliette Lewis, Mary Steenburgen

Released: 1993

Director: Lasse Hallstrom

Length: 118 Minutes

Gilbert Grape lives in a small town where nothing much happens. The town's most interesting resident is Gilbert's autistic brother Arnie.

Little Man Tate

Stars: Dianne Weist, Harry Connick, Jr.

Released: 1991

Director: Jodie Foster

Length: 118 Minutes

Fred is a genius with many Asperger's traits. His mother, Dede is determined to protect Fred from opportunists who wish to exploit his intellect. An interesting insight into the emotions of a child with autistic traits.

Backstreet Dreams

Stars: Brooke Shields, Sherilyn Fenn, Tony Fields, Burt Young, Anthony Franciosa

Released: 1990

Director: Rupert Hitzig

Length: 104 Minutes

A gangster, with apparent mafia connections, winds up taking care of his autistic son. The child displays many autistic behaviors, such as social withdrawal, does not speak, and rocks. A graduate student decides to help the child as well as help the father leave the mafia.

Change of Habit

Stars: Elvis Presley, Mary Tyler Moore, Jane Elliot, Barbara McNair

Released: 1969

Director: William Graham

Length: 97 Minutes

Elvis plays a physician who runs a medical clinic in a poor neighborhood. Three nuns are sent to assist Elvis in his medical practice. A parent brings her girl to the clinic for an evaluation and treatment. The girl is diagnosed as having autism because she rocks, does not want to be held, and does not respond to sounds. Elvis treats the girl, and she begins to break out of her autism.

Run Wild, Run Free

Stars: Mark Lester, John Mills, Fiona Fullerton, Gordon Jackson

Released: 1969

Director: Richard C. Sarafian

Length: 100 Minutes

Mark Lester (of Oliver fame), plays Philip Ransome, a northern English boy about 10 years old, who has been mute since age 3. He spends his days roaming the moors alone. His parents despair of a cure. Gradually Philip emerges from his shell. But the way out is full of heartbreak and setbacks.

House of Cards

Stars: Asha Menina, Kathleen Turner, Tommy Lee Jones, Esther Rolle

Released: 1993

Director: Michael Lessac

Length: 107 Minutes

A bright, young girl withdraws soon after her father is killed by falling off a cliff. She believes that by withdrawing socially and climbing tall structures, she will reunite with her father who she believes is near the moon. She exhibits many autistic characteristics, such as insistence on sameness, good coordination, lack of social interaction, and no language. At the end of the movie, the mother builds a circular tower which is similar to a tower the child built from playing cards. The mother climbs the tower with her daughter, and the girl comes out of her autistic-like state.

Killer Diller

Stars: Lucas Black, Fred Willard, William Lee Scott, Ashley Johnson

Released: 2004

Director: Tricia Brock

Length: 107 Minutes

A guitar playing car thief meets an autistic savant piano player, and together they transform a group of reluctant halfway house convicts into The Killer Diller Blues Band.

Rain Man

Stars: Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise, Valeria Golino

Released: 1988

Director: Barry Levinson

Length: 140 Minutes

A car dealer returns to his boyhood home soon after learning about his father's death. His father left a large sum of money to a benefactor, who he later discovers is left to his autistic brother, Raymond. Raymond was institutionalized soon after his mother's death because of the fear that he might accidentally hurt his younger brother. Raymond has many autistic features, such as perseverations, insistence on sameness, rocking, self-injury, and savant abilities. Throughout the movie, the car dealer gets to know his brother during a cross-country car trip. (Dr. Rimland was the technical advisor on this movie).

Silence (also known as Crazy Jack and The Boy)

Stars: Will Geer, Ellen Geer, Ian Geer, Richard Kelton

Released: 1974

Director: John Korty

Length: 99 Minutes

An autistic child is lost during a camping trip and is befriended by a hermit. The child leaves the hermit's house and is then faced with the dangers of the woods. He is later rescued.

Temple Grandin

Stars: Claire Danes, Catherine O'Hara, Julia Ormond, David Strathairn

Released: 2010

Director: Mick Jackson

Length: 107 Minutes

Biopic of Temple Grandin, an autistic woman who overcame the limitations imposed on her by her condition to become a Ph.D. and expert in the field of animal husbandry. She developed an interest in cattle early in life while spending time at her Aunt and Uncle's ranch. She did not speak until age four and had difficulty right through high school, mostly in dealing with people. Her mother was very supportive as were some of her teachers. She is noted for creating her 'hug box', widely recognized today as a way of relieving stress in autistic children, and her humane design for the treatment of cattle in processing plants, which have been the subject of several books and won an award from PETA.

The Pit

Stars: Sammy Snickers, Richard Alden, Jeannie Elias, Laura Hollingsworth

Released: 1981

Director: Lew Lehman

Length: 97 Minutes

Twelve year-old Jamie Benjamin (Sammy Snyder) is a misunderstood lad. His classmates pick on him, his neighbors think he's weird and his parents ignore him. But now Jamie has a secret weapon: deep in the woods he has discovered a deep pit full of man-eating creatures he calls Trogs...and it isn't long before he gets an idea for getting revenge and feeding the Trogs in the process!

The Boy Who Could Fly

Stars: Jay Underwood, Lucy Deakins, Fred Savage, Colleen Dewhurst, Fred Gwynne, Louise Fletcher

Released: 1986

Director: Nick Castle

Length: 114 Minutes

A teenager with autism is sent to live with his uncle after his parents die in an airplane crash. The teenager exhibits many features of autism such as social withdrawal, no language, and stereotypic behaviors. A girl who lives in a house next door befriends the teenager. Initially, she becomes his friend, but later she becomes his tutor. After much one-on-one contact, the teenager becomes more aware of other people and starts to show emotions. Because of his uncle's alcohol problem, the teenager is sent to an institution. At the end of the movie, the teenager flew away to avoid being institutionalized.

Snow Cake

Stars: Alan Rickman, Sigourney Weaver and Carrie-Anne Moss

Released: 2006

Director: Marc Evans

Length: 112 Minutes

Snow Cake is a Canadian drama about a middle-aged woman with autism and the friendship she develops with a man who is traumatized after having a car accident involving her daughter. Sigourney Weaver researched her role, and was coached by autism author and speaker Ros Blackburn.