

## Wrightslaw: All About IEPs, Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About IEPs

by Peter W.D. Wright, Esq., Pamela  
Darr Wright, MA, MSW  
and Sandra Webb O'Connor, M.Ed.  
reviewed by Joan Hourihane,  
AHA Staff Administrator



Hard to imagine that expressions such as: easy to read book about IEPs, special education law explained in plain language and easy to find answers about key legal questions would ever be used together in the same sentence? Well, with this new book from Wrightslaw, this

is all made possible! *All About IEPs* is a must-have book for parents, educators, advocates and anyone involved in special education. It is a wonderful reference tool that is laid out in a very user-friendly format that provides quick reference to specific topics related to special education. *All About IEPs* answers more than 200 frequently asked questions about IEPs (Individual Educational Plans) and the IEP process. The Q & A format makes it quick and easy to find your specific areas of interest without ever having to read the entire book from beginning to end, searching for the answers. Each chapter includes recommended resources on where to find more information, end notes that provide reference to the statutes and regulations which are then further detailed in Appendices A and B in the back of the book, advocate's tips, samples and checklists, and a summary. What is great about this book for parents is that it explains special education law and your rights and responsibilities in language that is easy to understand. If you are looking for answers to many of your unsolved questions or would like to know more about special education and the IEP process, I highly recommend this book!

*Socially Curious Cont'd from p 36*

social world for teens and young adults with ASDs. This book is a must-have for any teen or young adult with ASD and those who work with them. I have already begun using the book with much enthusiasm from my clients and will continue to be on the lookout for whatever Winner and Crooke have out next!

*Think Social, 2009*

*Samara Tetenbaum, M.A. is a Psychology Intern  
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## Understanding Sam and Asperger Syndrome

by Clarabelle van Niekerk  
& Liezl Venter, MA CCC-SLP  
reviewed by Samara P. Tetenbaum, MA  
with the help of Emma Klein and Michael Bunt



*Understanding Sam and Asperger Syndrome* uses vivid illustrations and an endearing story to captivate children while providing information on what it is like to know someone with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Emma and Michael, both 9 year olds with ASDs, were able to sit down and read this story together and provide a child's perspective of the picture book.

Emma and Michael both thought the book was "really good." Their favorite part of the book overall was the illustrations, especially the dog, Oscar, who is featured in a variety of humorous poses. The book served as an excellent conversation starter for what it means to have an ASD. However, Emma felt it left out some important information including that "some kids stim a lot" and that sometimes kids with ASD "may have to work harder." Additionally, the main character, Sam, leaves his house in the middle of the night to go to the fair. Michael was able to identify this as an "uh-oh" and that it is not okay to leave the house by yourself. However, neither Emma nor Michael was able to see how this may relate to Aspergers. This particular point of the story needed explanation.

Overall, the book was a great introduction for children to learn about Aspergers. It explains strengths and difficulties in kid-friendly terms. It also provides 10 great tips for being a friend to someone with Aspergers as well as useful strategies (see below for some of our favorites). *Understanding Sam and Asperger Syndrome* is a great resource to generate discussion about having a friend with Aspergers. As Emma said "other kids should buy it so they know what Aspergers is."

Top tips for being a friend to someone with Aspergers.

- Treat your friend as a regular kid.
- Change is hard, hang in there.
- Some days can be tough.
- Talking takes practice.

*Skeazel Press, 2008*

*Emma Klein and Michael Bunt are 9 years old  
Samara Tetenbaum, M.S. is a Psychology Intern  
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