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## Raising kids on the autism spectrum

*Kennedy Krieger Institute's Dr. Rebecca Landa works with Chicken Soup for the Soul to support parents of children with autism and Asperger's*

**COS COB, Conn.** – As Anne Moore Burnett wiped down the playground slide for her son with sensory sensitive autism, she felt shunned by the other mothers. Then another mother of a child with autism gave her a paper bag containing a towel and a candy bar. “Through tears of disbelief I thanked her and she hugged me. I had been so alone for so long, I could barely contain myself. I began to sob,” Anne writes in her story. “‘We wanted to help; we just didn’t understand,’ said the other mothers as they handed me tissues.”

But others do understand. The 101 personal stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Raising Kids on the Spectrum* (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, April 2, 2013, 978-1611599084, \$14.95) create a portable support group for parents of children with autism spectrum disorder. They will see pieces of themselves reflected in the stories by other parents and also by people who have been diagnosed with autism and Asperger syndrome. This book also makes it clear that every child on the spectrum is an individual with a unique set of talents and non-neurotypical behaviors.

Chicken Soup for the Soul was honored to have Dr. Rebecca Landa of the Kennedy Krieger Institute coauthor this book. As she says, “This book’s potential for impacting the world’s understanding of, and compassion for, individuals with ASD and their family members motivated me to participate in bringing it to fruition. In my role as a clinician, researcher, and friend of many individuals with ASD and their families, I have walked alongside families experiencing the types of challenges and triumphs shared in this book.”

“I remember when my son was first diagnosed. It was like I was staring into the abyss, and I felt this need to turn somewhere for information,” says co-author Nancy Burrows. “I would have loved to have this book to turn to for support, guidance and tips. There’s a big difference between Googling ‘autism’ on the Internet and reading 101 stories from parents who have already been there.”

Rebecca Landa, PhD, is the founder and director of the [Center for Autism and Related Disorders](#) at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Md., where her pioneering research is uncovering the earliest signs of autism and informing the development of new interventions.

*Chicken Soup for the Soul: Raising Kids on the Spectrum* (Dr. Rebecca Landa, Mary Beth Marsden, Nancy Burrows, and Amy Newmark) releases on April 2, 2013, World Autism Awareness Day. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series, which is distributed through Simon & Schuster, Inc. In 2007, *USA Today* named Chicken Soup for the Soul one of the five most memorable books in the last quarter century. Since 1993, more than 100 million books in the series have been sold in the United States and Canada alone. Chicken Soup for the Soul titles have been sold in more than 100 additional countries and translated into more than 40 languages. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media, including TV shows and a major motion picture, and is also developing a digital presence for life improvement, emotional support, inspiration, and wellness. Chicken Soup for the Soul Foods, a joint venture with Daymon Worldwide Inc., will start rolling out its line of delicious, nutritious comfort foods in Spring 2013. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous brand to high-quality licensees. For more information visit [www.chickensoup.com](http://www.chickensoup.com).

**To receive a review copy of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Raising Kids on the Spectrum* or to request an interview, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 206-0229 or [shelby@sheltoninteractive.com](mailto:shelby@sheltoninteractive.com)**