

## **MORE THAN WORDS – Brief Overview**

(by Fern Sussman)

- This book is a guide to help parents promote communication and social skills in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- The ideas in this book are based upon The Hanen Program for parents of Children with ASD (or related communication difficulties)
- The 1<sup>st</sup> section of most chapters looks at how the information applies to children at all stages. The 2<sup>nd</sup> section outlines additional information according to a child's specific stage of communication.

### **CHAPTER 1 – “GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR CHILD’S COMMUNICATION”**

- Identifies stages of communication to help know what to expect and how to provide assistance
  - o The Own Agenda Stage
  - o The Requester Stage
  - o The Early Communicator Stage
  - o The Partner Stage

### **CHAPTER 2 – “SET GOALS BY USING YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUR CHILD”**

- According to the child's stage of communication

### **CHAPTER 3 – “FOLLOW YOUR CHILD’S LEAD”**

- Gives information on how interaction gets communication started and what to do to help a child progress during interactions

### **CHAPTER 4 – “TAKE TURNS TOGETHER”**

- Discusses how to keep a child interacting and playing with another in ways that promote back-and-forth turn-taking

### **CHAPTER 5 – “MAKE THE CONNECTION WITH PEOPLE GAMES”**

- Build structure and predictability into a child's activities and gives descriptions on how to choose and play turn-taking games with a child

### **CHAPTER 6 – “HELP YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAY”**

- Looks at how you can adjust the way you talk to your child so that he/she can make sense of what you say

### **CHAPTER 7 – “USE VISUAL HELPERS”**

- Outlines what you can do with objects, pictures and print to help your child understand situations, organize his/her life and express themselves

### **CHAPTER 8 – “R.O.C.K. IN YOUR ROUTINES”**

- Combines strategies from chapters 1-7 to encourage interaction, understanding, independence and conversation during a child's everyday routines

### **CHAPTER 9 – “MAKE THE MOST OF MUSIC”**

- Discusses how a child's love of music can improve interaction and communication

### **CHAPTER 10 – “BRING ON THE BOOKS”**

- Looks at using books in a structured way to help a child understand more words and develop new thoughts and ways to communicate about them

### **CHAPTER 11 – “TAKE OUT THE TOYS”**

- Describes the kinds of toys that will help a child develop play and communication skills

### **CHAPTER 12 – “LET’S MAKE FRIENDS”**

- Practical suggestions on how to foster friendships in which a child continues to use his/her new communication skills