



## **OAR Celebrates 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday with New Guide Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2017

Contact: Kimberly Ha, Director, Research and Programs  
703-243-9762, kha@researchautism.org

ARLINGTON, VA – In celebration of OAR’s 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, OAR is releasing an updated version of *Life Journey Through Autism: An Educator’s Guide to Asperger Syndrome* (2003), which has been retitled to *Life Journey Through Autism: An Educator’s Guide to ASD (Level 1 Supports)*. The revised and expanded guide is now available for download and order.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex disorder that presents numerous challenges within the inclusive classroom setting. This updated publication provides guidelines to support the child with Level 1 ASD support needs, from elementary school to high school. *An Educator’s Guide to ASD (Level 1 Supports)* not only serves as a primer for general education teachers, but also offers practical and relevant tools to address challenging behaviors in the classroom.

Specifically, the guide contains information that will help teachers in the mainstream classroom how to:

- Become familiar with ASD and how it affects a child
- Identify evidence-based academic and environmental strategies to promote classroom success
- Foster successful peer relations and social interactions
- Effectively communicate and collaborate with parents during the IEP process

Updated information include:

- Description of changes in diagnostic terminology and culturally accepted terms
- Legislative history
- Behavior-based strategies, visual supports, and assistive technology
- Evidence-based academic and environmental strategies
- Strategies and planning related to transitioning to adulthood

This resource can be used independently or as a supplement to the [\*Understanding Autism: Professional Development Curriculum\*](#). While the guide was written with general education



teachers in mind, it can also be used to reinforce autism supports among paraprofessionals and special education teachers as well.

“I plan on ordering copies for my school district and using the guide to train staff,” says Christine Prozik, the coordinator of autism services at Charles County Public Schools in La Plata, MD. “The guide is extremely thorough and well thought out. The appendices are absolutely incredible.”

OAR extends its gratitude to Melissa Savage, Ph.D. and Diane Adreon, Ed.D. for their significant contributions to the revised guide. Dr. Savage is a post-doctoral candidate at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute. Dr. Adreon is an associate director at University of Miami, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-CARD), and author of “Special Considerations for Students with High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Guide for School Administrators.”

*An Educator’s Guide to ASD (Level 1 Supports)* is available online for PDF download on OAR’s main website, and will be available in eBook format starting in early 2018. Hard copies are also available with 2-3 weeks processing time. OAR continues to provide this resource for free through its [online store](#), and welcomes all donations.

If you have any questions or feedback about OAR’s *Educator’s Guide to ASD (Level 1 Supports)*, or if you would like to submit a bulk order request, please contact OAR at 703-243-9762, or [programs@researchautism.org](mailto:programs@researchautism.org).

**About OAR:** The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national non-profit organization formed and led by relatives of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders. OAR is dedicated to promoting research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much-needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions. Learn more at [www.researchautism.org](http://www.researchautism.org).

###