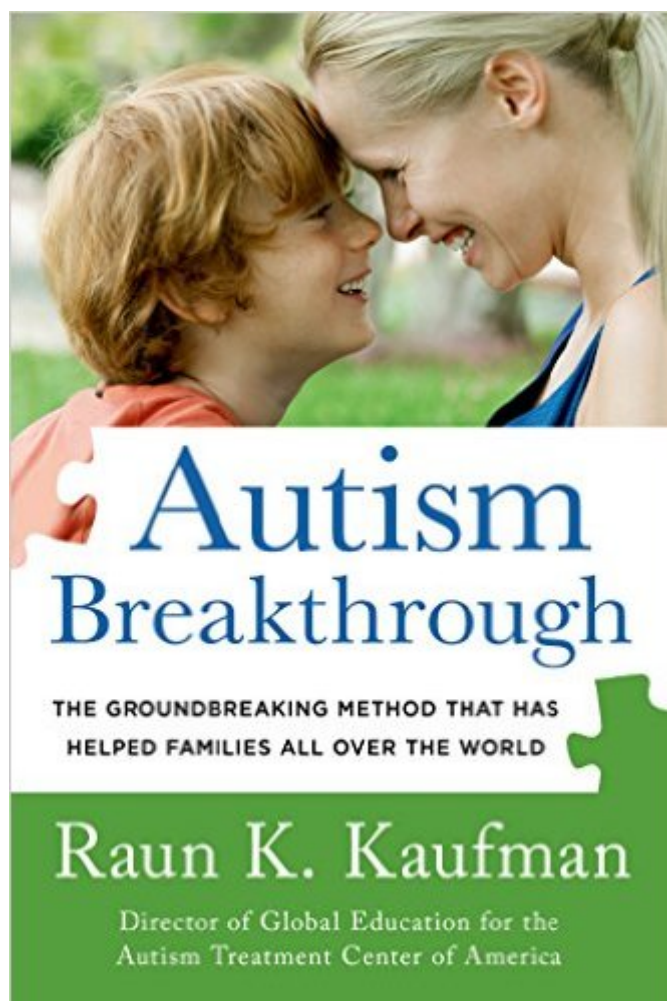


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Autism Breakthrough: The Groundbreaking Method That Has Helped Families All Over The World



Synopsis

As a boy, Raun Kaufman was diagnosed by multiple experts as severely autistic, with an IQ below 30, and destined to spend his life in an institution. Years later, Raun graduated with a degree in Biomedical Ethics from Brown University and has become a passionate and articulate autism expert and educator with no trace of his former condition. So what happened? Thanks to The Son-Rise Program, a revolutionary method created by his parents, Raun experienced a full recovery from autism. (His story was recounted in the best-selling book *Son-Rise: The Miracle Continues* and in the award-winning NBC television movie *Son-Rise: A Miracle of Love*.) In *Autism Breakthrough*, Raun presents the ground-breaking principles behind the program that helped him and thousands of other families with special children. Autism, he explains, is frequently misunderstood as a behavioral disorder when, in fact, it is a social relational disorder. Raun explains what it feels like to be autistic and shows how and why The Son-Rise Program works. A step-by-step guide with clear, practical strategies that readers can apply immediately • in some cases, parents see changes in their children in as little as one day • Autism Breakthrough makes it possible for these special children to defy their original often-very-limited prognoses. Parents and educators learn how to enable their children to create meaningful, caring relationships, vastly expand their communications, and to participate successfully in the world. An important work of hope, science, and progress, *Autism Breakthrough* presents the powerful ideas and practical applications that have already changed the lives of families all over the world.

Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; Reprint edition (March 31, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250063477

ISBN-13: 978-1250063472

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (145 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #17,162 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Special Needs > Disabilities #61 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Child Psychology #83 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Child Psychology

Customer Reviews

I have to tell you, I've read many autism help books. Researched many websites. Nothing compares to the insight Raun Kaufman gives in this book. I am a mother to a 5 year old boy, Lincoln. We have been on this autism journey since he was 1 1/2, although he was officially diagnosed ASD a month before he turned 4. He has been in speech therapy since the age of 1 1/2, early childhood special education since 3. He started occupational therapy at 4, as well as ABA. He started out with no communication other than screaming/tantruming/meltdowns. He threw things, bit, hit, kicked, you name it. He loved lining his toys up, had poor eye contact and rarely responded to his name. Picky food choices and extremely sensitive to crowds. We've come a long way since the beginning. He has a much broader vocabulary and is even speaking in 3-4 word sentences at times. The tantrums went from 3-4 a day to 3-4 a week. He still is aggressive, but tries his best to control it and not hurt others. Most of this is thanks to the hard work his therapists put in. And honestly, the hard work, I, his mother have put in. When we began ABA, I thought of it as the answer to all of our worries. Potty training, aggression, eating new food, the works. At first, it seemed that way. They got him to curb his aggression down by prompting him to use words instead. Their primary focus was academic goals, such as cutting, writing & learning to read. ABA teaches our children how to follow directions. I have watched it 3 days a week for 4 hours a day for the last 6 months. Lincoln, go get your coat. Lincoln, share your toy. Lincoln, write an L. All important, but what is he learning? Not how to share a toy, or why he should share it. Because playing with others is fun. No, he is learning how to comply. He needs help learning how to interact appropriately and meaningfully with others. He has no friends. Whenever he is around other children, he "plays" beside them. Mostly running back & forth. When I think of what I want for Lincoln, it's simple. To develop meaningful relationships in life. Not to grow up just doing what people say like some robot. Raun says in his book, "Autism isn't a math disorder. It isn't a color-naming disorder. And it isn't a reading disorder. It's a social, relational, interpersonal, interactional disorder." I had the honor of seeing Raun speak at a lecture he offered during the NAA Conference in St. Petersburg last year. It was astounding to hear his method, see videos of the children being enriched by the Son-Rise program and to gain a new outlook on how our children should be approached. My husband is active duty military and we also have a 3 year old and 10 month old at home. I would love to go to the Son-Rise program, but it's not something we will be able to do in the immediate future. This book gives us an insight into the program without ever stepping foot outside our home. And it WORKS. Before I join Lincoln, it can seem like I am on the other side of a door, just banging and banging on it, but no one is answering. The second I join him, it's as if he opens it and says, Hi Mommy, I've been waiting for you. Communication,

spontaneous play, pure joy comes out of him. And guess what, sometimes, if I ask him to step through the door and come into my world, he does. We've only just begun following Raun's program, and if this is the reaction I'm getting now, I know that his future looks amazing. Do yourself a favor, read the book. Open your eyes. Your child deserves it and is waiting for the door to open.

I've taken three Son-Rise courses at the Autism Treatment Institute of America in Sheffield, MA, and I can say that if the lessons are applied as they are taught (which includes a good long look at your own heart in this process of bringing up a child with ASD), it may be the most effective intervention out there. Over time, you will likely see an improvement in the social and communication aspects of your autistic child. However, you do have to bring some time, energy, love, and enthusiasm to the process for it to have an effect. I've also received training in Verbal Behavior (a type of ABA) and Relationship Development Intervention (RDI), and we have done a number of other interventions with our child. I can say from experience, that even though it is my favorite intervention, Son-Rise is not the ONLY good intervention out there. Almost EVERY intervention is helpful when done correctly and with the right mindset. Bottom line is if you spend a lot of time playing with a child with love in your heart and without feeling impatient, critical, nervous, or super pushy, you will probably help them. That is the most important thing you can bring to your child, no matter what intervention you choose. People in the autism world love to judge each others' interventions as ineffective for some reason, and the Son-Rise team is no exception to this industry-wide flaw. I took off one star for this bias. There was a lot of criticism specifically regarding ABA. I'm assuming it's because the Kaufmans were introduced to ABA at a time when Lovaas was doing things like administering punitive electric shocks and tying people to chairs. I understand why they would hate that, but come on, it's 40-50 years later now and that doesn't happen anymore. The newer style of ABA is reward-based and can be very effective for shaping behavior when done by a person with a good mindset and some flexibility. Plus there are a lot of behavioral principles both interventions have in common. This practice of presenting a divided front among intervention providers leads to confusion among parents as to which intervention to choose. As for our family, we have tried almost every intervention out there- ABA, Son-Rise, Floortime, RDI, speech therapy, occupational therapy, special education, and I can say that EVERY intervention has been helpful for our child when done by someone with a loving and flexible heart for children. That's the most important part- the heart of the person doing the therapy, not the intervention itself. The person needs to like to play with children, have integrity, and have the right mindset. If they have those things, you're 90% there. The intervention choice is about 10% of the equation. Seriously. Good attitude gets good results,

negative attitude gets negative results. Back to Son-Rise- this is my favorite intervention, for two reasons- 1 it's effective, and 2. it empowering and gets your head and heart into the right place. What do I dislike about Son-Rise? It takes time, but they all do, I guess, lol. My head is isn't always in the right place all the time after all, but that's ok. I'm a work in progress, like my son. How do I know Son-Rise is effective? Because my son responded positively and improved his communication, eye contact, and ability to be around people without losing it. There were immediate results, such as increased eye contact and a happy play experience, and also results down the road, such as better communication and increased tolerance of change and stimuli. Note regarding the word "cure". The Kaufmans like this word because they are laypeople. The medical community hates the "cure" word because it is nearly impossible to quantify. This is why medicine hardly ever uses the word "cure". For example, when you get better from say, a cold, doctors never say "cured", but "better". So to all you medical people, when the Kaufmans say "cure", just think "better" or "we can't detect it any more". Don't get tied up in a pretzel over it. Their son is better now. You can't detect the autism any more, so they of course, say he's cured. However, Raun is an anomaly. Most people who do this intervention or any other, are still autistic afterward. Most do not get to the point of no symptoms like Raun Kaufman did. But over time, most people do improve- some marginally, some dramatically. You just have to get some good people and try for a long time.

Still reading however, such a marvelous book. If you are Contemplating this purchase, to ahead and do it. The son rise method is the method that my 3 year old son with severe autism is enrolled in. He adores it. And has some so far in such a short time. If you have financial worries on this, and Want it but can't afford it, I'm so confident that this book will support your lifestyle change so greatly that I would be happy to either pass it on when I am finished or buy you a copy. I just ask that you pay it forward. I struggle financially so terribly with the private insurance I have and it doesn't cover this approach, or any for that matter (oklahoma for ya) but I feel that strongly about it. Autism is a lifestyle change that only those directly involved would understand and this book, written by the first patient, will help you tremendously. God bless and keep hope.

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