

I Am Your Child

I am your child
 Living on the Autistic Spectrum.
 I am not stupid or insane.
 I am just confused in a world that
 makes no sense to me.

I am often overwhelmed
 By what I see, hear, smell, touch and taste.
 I have a low tolerance for change
 But I live in an ever-changing world.

So I may retreat into my own little world
 Where things don't change
 and confuse me.

Some people think I don't have feelings.
 I have feelings, but I have trouble controlling
 them.

Some people think I don't care about
 friendships
 But I really need friends who understand me.

Some people think I have a great memory
 For detailed facts and figures.
 But I have no "memories" of feeling happy or
 sad
 Though haunted by "memories" of feeling
 angry or afraid.

You are my parent.
 Please be my guide.

I need you to help me make sense of the world
 When my senses are overwhelmed by the world.

I need to learn that by gazing into your eyes
 You teach me the world can be understood.

I need you to show that it's safe for me
 To crawl out of my never-changing world
 And to live in your ever-changing world
 Because you'll be there to
 guide me when I'm confused.

I need you to invite me to talk about things
 Without telling me what to say
 or how to say it.
 Use fewer words so I can focus on your smile.
 Though I may talk quickly, I hear slowly.

I need you to help me
 To experience the joy of playing together
 instead of alone
 And to remember
 that joy in photographs for years to come.

I need you to show me that I can relate
 So I will want to relate
 And to learn to move together with others
 In this great dance you call Life.

Someday, when your work is done
 I will embrace the changes that once frightened
 me
 Because the God who is ultimately in control
 Is always there to guide me
 And He never changes.

Brad Chew - parent of a child with ASD
<http://www.connectionscenter.com/newsletter/default.asp>