

### Why Provide Sensitivity and Awareness Training ?

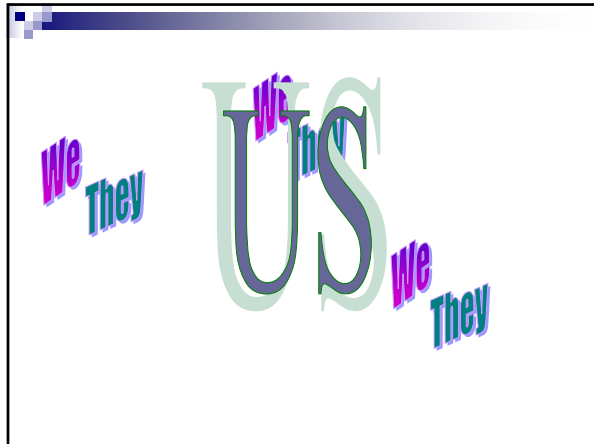
*"If we truly want individuals with autism to know and be accepted, we have an obligation to teach their peers how to have successful relationships with them and to give them accurate information about how individuals with an ASD perceive and experience the world."* Walk Awhile in My Autism

- ### Who?
- Co-workers / supervisors
  - Support staff
  - Family members
  - Peers
  - Community members

- ### What?
- Appreciating Diversity
  - Learning Styles & Neurological Differences
  - Movement Differences
  - Sensory System Differences
  - Social and Communication Differences
  - How to Support

- ### When & Where?
- Individual has upcoming transitions to new environments
  - Individual is experiencing some challenges
  - When people have questions

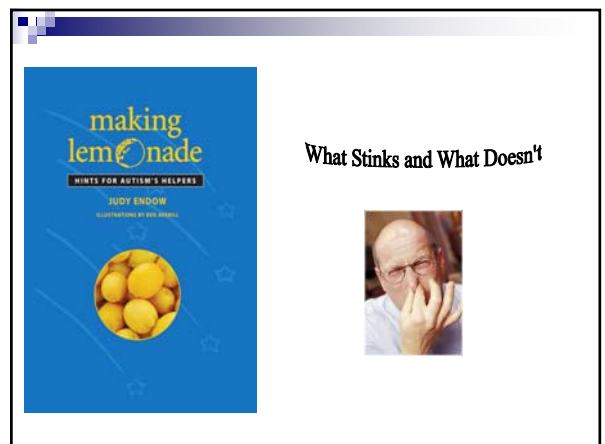
- ### Why?
- To build compassion and understanding
  - To facilitate relationships
  - To increase proactive and positive supports
  - To increase success



*"I think of my lemons of Autism as the fruit of who I am. I was born wired to fit (or not to fit, depending on your perspective) into this world. I cannot change my internal wiring any more than I can change my genes. I cannot change my lemons anymore than I can change my blue eye color or my attached earlobes.*

*I have autism.  
I have lemons.  
I choose to learn how to make lemonade."*

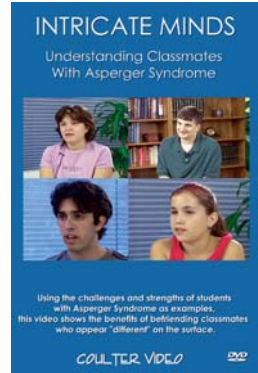
-Judy Endow, author of Making Lemonade





## Scratched Soul

An unpublished poem  
by Judy Endow



*Using the challenges and strengths of individuals with Asperger's Syndrome as examples, this video shows individuals the benefits of befriending people who appear "different" on the surface.*

## "Autism is a World"



For years, Sue Rubin says she was "her own worst nightmare." Sue has autism, and until age 13, she was unable to communicate or control her unusual behavior. Now in her late twenties, Sue has become a disabled-rights advocate and a college student with a top IQ. In the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Autism is a World*, filmmaker Gerry Wurzburg and CNN Presents take a rare look at autism through the words of a young woman who lives with it.

*The intention behind A is for Autism is to provide an insight into the lives and experiences of those who suffer from the condition. It does so by being a collaboration in the truest sense of the word: the animation takes as its basis a series of drawings by people with autism (whilst, understandably, retaining their distinctive qualities) and is accompanied by a soundtrack comprising of their thoughts and recollections.*



## Books

*Born on a Blue Day*

■ *Daniel Tammet*

*Rules*

■ *Cynthia Lord*

*Books by Temple Grandin*

*Books by Donna Williams*

## *Some Tips for Sensitivity and Awareness Presentations*

- Always check with the individual
- Include the individual and family as they choose
- Get info re: setting and concerns

- Find a centering cue
- Think about beginning with strengths
- **Invite** everyone to participate; allow passes

- Incorporate and appreciate responses
- Let them be your guide
- HAVE FUN WITH THEM!
- Always end with GRATITUDES...  
GRATITUDES...GRATITUDES

■ Adapted From: McGinnity & Ladson, 2007

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