



topic and trouble with communication. A true list of symptoms reported by Stanley I. Greenspan, M.D., in his article, "Understanding Autism," include

trouble forming relationships

difficulty understanding or responding to emotional signals from others

difficulty using language creatively and receptively

self-absorption (the child seems to be in his own world and not tuned in to stimuli or

people around him

repetitive, self-

out that society looks to the media for information and examples of autism. In the past people used the movie *Rainman*; now people look to Sheldon, a main character on the TV show *The Big Bang Theory* (760). Raymond, the autistic man from *Rainman*, was viewed as retarded and was placed in a mental institution. Sheldon, from *The Big Bang Theory*, lives on his own and is a very intelligent and capable person. This shows that society is now developing a better

they may need some accommodations like interview training and someone to guide them through the day as they work.

In order to meet these success goals, people with autism need assistance. Parents and caregivers are the first people that can help children and young adults with autism. If autistic children are given support and guidance from a young age, it could lead to a very successful future. From the time parents even think about having children, they are already planning a life for their child. They have ideas about their interests, friends, social status, potential jobs and much more. As their child grows, the plan develops and helps the child grow. When parents begin to notice differences in their child that lead to a diagnosis of Autism, the child's parents may push their plan aside and have no idea what to do next. The original plan they had may not be suitable for their autistic child, but it can be altered to fit their child's needs and future.

*Everyday Health* recommends that parents “[d]on't stop planning” and create a “person-centered plan as soon as possible” (Suszynski). A person-centered plan is a plan that is specific to the autistic child and his or

There is an increasing number of programs that are aimed toward people with autism. It is the parents' responsibility to place their children with ASD in at least one program when the child is young. Not every program will work for every child. Some programs focus on socialization while others may focus on preparing the child for independent living, although, some programs



and handles relationships (Greenspan 55). This program does not require professionals or training of other people; it just requires parents and caregivers to take extra time with the child. If a child is not very responsive, parents can show him or her two cookies, an oatmeal and a chocolate chip, and ask him or her which they would like to eat. Eventually the child will answer with which cookie he or she wants. This may seem like a menial thing to do, but it entices the child to use language in a meaningful way and the child “move[s] up the developmental ladder” (Greenspan 55-56). This example is for a child who has little social skills, so this would not be necessary for a child who is more social. Each child is very different, and this is important to remember when choosing a program and creating a plan for his or her life.

It is also important to remember people’s differences when an adult with ASD is looking for a job. According to the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), between 2014 and 2016 there will be an estimated 1.5 million adults with autism in the United States

participate in very little chit-chat, enjoy following a schedule or routine, strive for perfection, and like on the go jobs (“Employee”). Why is it then that the employment rate is a mere 12 percent? Perhaps the problem is that employers do not know where to start when it comes to hiring adults with autism.

A good place to begin is with the application process. Eilidh Cage points out that many job applications “ask for 'excellent interpersonal and communication skills'” (Cage 761). People with autism are not equipped with these skills. OCALI uses the term “socially awkward” to describe those with ASD (“Employee”). If a person with autism is trying to apply for a job and reads this requirement he or she may shy away from applying. How can we expect employment





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