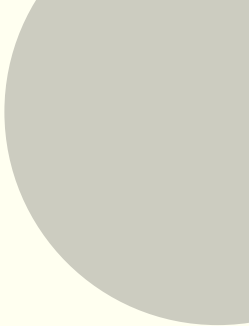




GUIDE TO OUR SENSORY SERVICES





The Sensory Stories Programme at Monaghan County Libraries was developed in order to make our libraries more accessible and to improve our services to those with additional needs.

We have introduced a range of new services with online literacy software programmes, sensory storytimes, classes, workshops and resources in each of our branches.

Our Sensory Stories services also include a series of free lectures and workshops. These events offer further guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers and healthcare professionals. You can find out more about these services on our website at www.monaghan.ie/library/sensory



Autism Friendly Services

Monaghan County Library Services have been working with **AsIAM**, Ireland's National Autism Charity to make our libraries more accessible for people on the Autism Spectrum. All our staff have received autism awareness training.

- Sensory Boxes are available in each of our libraries which contain a number of fidgets and sensory toys to assist in a visit to the library.
- Communication Fan/Sensory Story which can explain a visit to the library.



JAM Card©

Friendly

Organisation



Just a minute

Monaghan County Libraries are delighted to be a JAM Card© Friendly Organisation.

The JAM Card© allows people with learning difficulties, autism and communication barriers to ask for Just A Minute of patience in customer service situations.

You can get a JAM Card from the Library, from <https://jamcard.org/register/get-a-card> or simply download the app on your phone. You can show your card to a staff member if you need a little help on your visit or if you need 'Just a Minute' at the desk.

“The JAM Card© was created by NOW Group, a social enterprise that supports people with learning difficulties and autism into jobs with a future. Find out more about NOW at www.nowgroup.org and JAM Card© at www.jamcard.org.”

Assistive Toys Collection

Did you know that each of the Branch Libraries in Monaghan have an Assistive Toy Collection? These toys have been curated to assist in the practice of skills recommended by Occupational Therapists and are available to borrow by those most in need in our communities.

These items focus on developing skills for life and help support the development of fine and gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination, visual perception and problem solving.

To Borrow the Collection

- You must be a member of Monaghan County Libraries
- You can borrow two items at a time
- Items must be returned in a clean and useable condition.



Assistive Toys Collection

Contact your local library if you would like to book any of the items - details of our branches are found at the back of this catalogue.

To see the full range of toys available to borrow go to

www.monaghan.ie/library/sensory

C-Pen Reader

C-PEN Reader Pen's can also be borrowed through your local branch library. A C-Pen Reader is a portable, pocket-sized reading pen that reads text out loud. It is designed to promote independent learning and is a breakthrough for any student with reading difficulties such as dyslexia.



Sensory Story Bags

Our Sensory Story Bags contain information about the Sensory Stories Programme at Monaghan County Libraries.

Each bag contains a Communication Fan about a trip to the library, a book, sensory toy, colouring pencils and our sensory stories brochure.

To request one of our Sensory Stories Bags please contact your local library or libraryactivities@monaghancoco.ie



Tovertafel Tables

Have you heard of a Tovertafel table or a Magic Table? These tables encourage interactive play through the use of a projector and sensors. They help with coordination, focus and attention.

Tovertafel tables have been installed in Clones and Carrickmacross Libraries and will be available in the new Monaghan and Castleblayney Libraries. Suitable for everyone but especially those with Autism and Dementia, these tables promote well-being and ignite conversation.

We have made a short video to show how they work and you can view this on Monaghan County Libraries YouTube Channel.

For queries on the Tovertafel tables contact libraryactivities@monaghancoco.ie

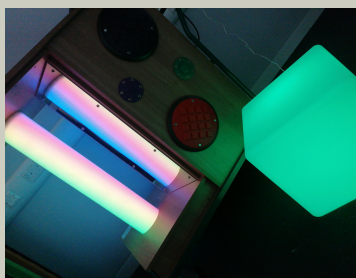


Sensory Space at Clones Library

Clones Branch Library has a bookable Sensory Space for families of children with additional needs. There is a wide range of items available to use during a visit such as;

- Tovertafal Table
- Portable Sensory Trolley
- Balance Beams
- Light cubes
- Sensory Toys
- Games

Booking essential. To access this space you can email: cloneslibrary@monaghancoco.ie or phone 047 74712.



Talks and Workshops

Throughout the year Monaghan County Libraries offer classes, talks and workshops for those with additional needs and their families.

You can find out more about these workshops by

- dropping into your local library,
- by joining our mailing list at
<https://monaghan.ie/library/join-our-mailing-list/>
or
- by following Monaghan County Libraries on
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/monaghancountylibraries>



Storytime's

We love stories! It is through stories that we can imagine new places, take part in adventures but also find a character who is sometimes a bit like us! Monaghan Libraries staff love telling stories and have received training on running sensory storytime's. You can find out more about this by contacting your local branch.

Monaghan Libraries have also worked with author Valerie Sheehan, a professionally trained ASD tutor and author of the wonderful Tony the Turtle Series of Books, as part of the Sensory Stories programme.



Storytime's

Valerie's books are designed for young children who see the world differently and their parents and teachers. The books empower parents and teachers to manage everyday activities that the child might find challenging or over-whelming.

Valerie recorded some special storytimes for us and you can view them on our dedicated webpage www.monaghan.ie/library/sensory or YouTube Channel - Monaghan County Library.

- Tony goes to school
- Tony goes to the playground
- Tony goes to a party
- Tony goes swimming



Literacy Supports

Monaghan County Libraries provide Free Access to Library Members to a number of programmes to support literacy development. These programmes can be accessed at home or in the library. To request a login for any of these programmes contact libraryactivities@monaghancoco.ie

Nessy reading and spelling

Nessy Reading & Spelling is an app based reading programme which teaches all the fundamentals of reading in fun games. Perfect for reluctant readers or those with dyslexia.

Ages 5 -10



Lexia Core 5

This programme supports literacy development for children from 8 -12 years.



Literacy Supports

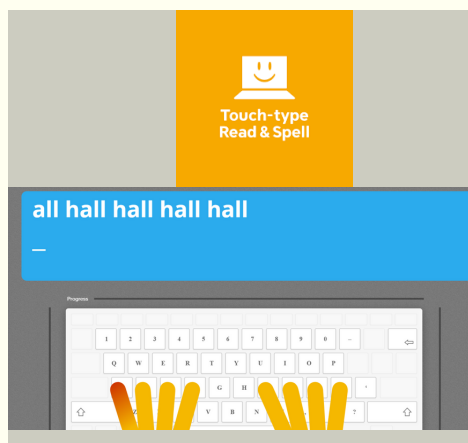
Lexia Power Up

This programme supports literacy development for secondary school students and adults. Perfect for reluctant readers.



TTRS - Touch-Type, Read & Spell

A highly accessible multi-sensory course which teaches touch-typing, reading and spelling at the same time. Perfect for those with writing or spelling difficulties or those with dyslexia.



Recommended Stories

Monaghan County Libraries have curated a special 'Here To Help' collection of books which has been developed to help readers deal with a diagnosis, to identify themselves with a character and to help in starting difficult conversations.

As part of our Sensory Stories Services we have worked with Eleanor McStay-Fearon who is a Trainer/Advisor and Specialist Speech and Language Therapist at Middletown Centre for Autism. Eleanor holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Sensory Integration and is a registered Sensory Integration Advanced Practitioner.

Eleanor works directly with children with autism in schools and at home. She works closely with parents, teachers and health professionals to support the implementation of communication, sensory and emotional regulation programmes.

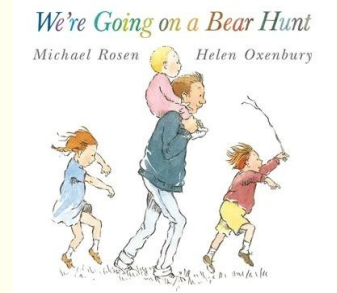
On the following pages you will find an example of some of the books recommended by Eleanor and our librarians that are available in Monaghan Libraries Here to Help Collection.



Books for Sensory Fun

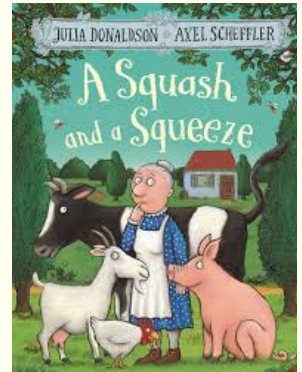
We're going on a Bear Hunt

Wade through the grass,
splash through the river and
squelch through the mud in
this wonderful sensory story
by Michael Rosen.



A Squash and a Squeeze

A fabulous rhyming tale which
features a farmyard of animals in
tricky situations. Use a squashy
fidget to squish and squash
through the story or simply give
yourself a big hug everytime you
hear a 'squash and a squeeze'.
By Julia Donaldson.

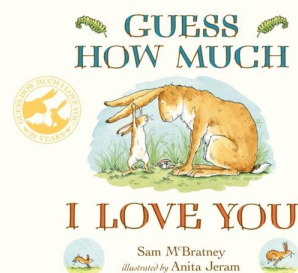


Books for Sensory Fun

Guess how much I love you

Stretch reach bounce and hop your way through this story as we learn how much Big Nutbrown Hair loves Little Nutbrown Hair.

By Sam McBratney.



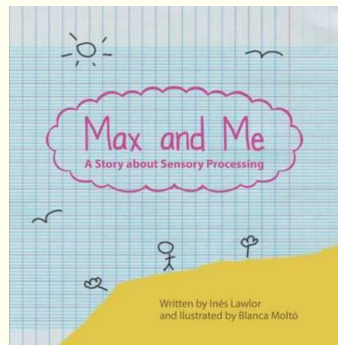
Top Tip: Create a sensory tray or story sack before reading together to enjoy these sensory stories. Simply gather up items from your home or garden that are featured in the story such as slime, a ball, a jug of water or long grass. Use these items during the story to make it come to life!

People like me - books with autistic characters.

Max and Me

The lights and noise of a busy environment can be overwhelming but once you know about the modulator in your brain you can learn new ways to cope with these moments of sensory overload.

By Ines Lawlor

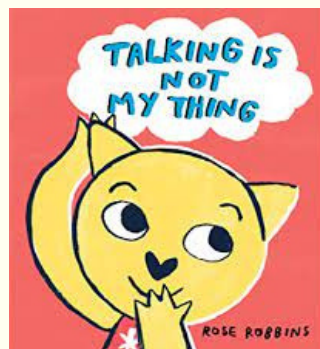


Talking is not my thing

A beautiful story of the power of sibling relationships. The little sister in this story is non-verbal but her brother and family always seem to know what she needs.

This story celebrates neurodiversity.

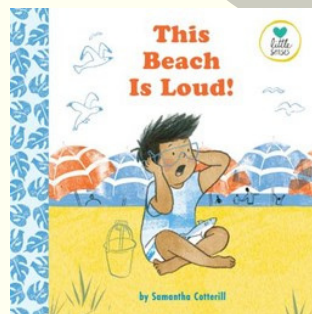
By Rose Robbins.



This beach is loud!

A much anticipated trip to the beach takes a turn for the worse when the little boy in the story becomes aware of all the new noises and senses. Luckily Dad is on hand to remind him of his coping strategies.

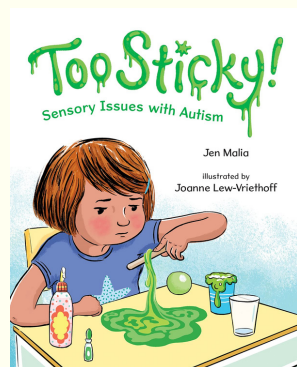
By Samanta Cotterill



Too Sticky! Sensory issues with autism

Holly doesn't like sticky things! When she hears that they are making slime in science class she worries throughout the day but her friends and teachers are there to encourage and help her overcome her fears.

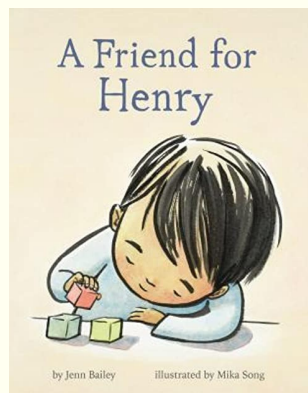
By Jen Malia



A Friend for Henry

Henry is lonely and finds the daily sensory and interpersonal challenges of school a struggle. Will he find a like-minded friend?

By Jenn Bailey

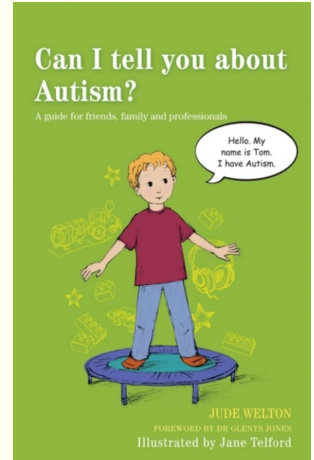


People like me - books with autistic characters.

Can I tell you about Autism?

Meet Tom - a young boy with autism. Tom invites readers to learn about autism from his perspective, helping them to understand what it is and explaining the challenges he faces with issues such as social communication, sensory overload and changes in his routine. Tom tells readers about all the ways he can be helped and supported by those around him.

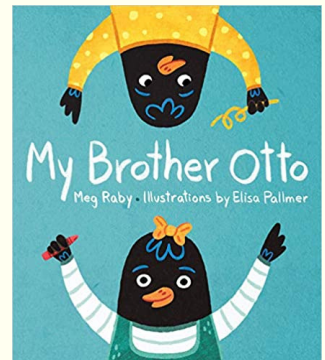
By Jude Welton



My brother Otto

Otto likes to play with his sister. He also likes to spin and the colour yellow. He doesn't like red. A book about love and acceptance and everyday challenges.

By Meg Raby

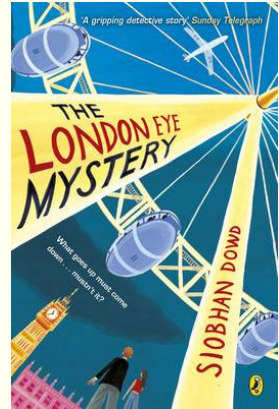


People like me - books with autistic characters.

The London Eye Mystery

When their cousin goes missing Ted and his sister Kat set out to find him. It falls to Ted, whose brain works on its own unique operating system to solve the mystery.

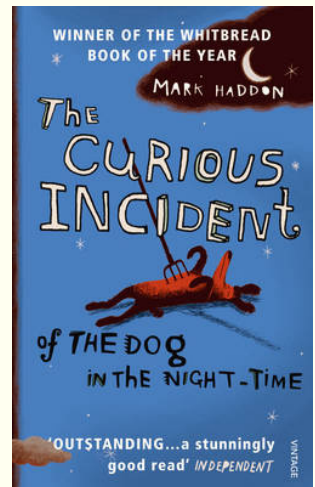
By Siobhán Dowd



The Curious Incident of the dog in the night time.

Christopher Boone is 15 and has Asperger's. Having rarely travelled further than the end of his road he becomes the lead detective in trying to solve the case of the murder of his neighbours dog.

By Mark Haddon

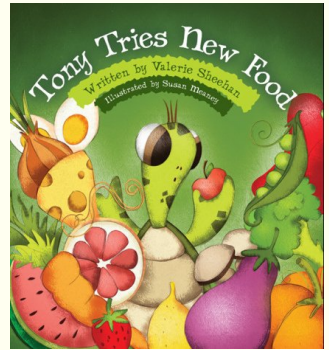


Books about New Experiences

Tony Tries New Food

For children with sensory difficulties, food can prove a real challenge. The look smell and taste of food can cause many battles but this story looks at trying new food without pressure in the hope that curiosity will take over.

By Valerie Sheehan.



The Magic Moment

Trying new things can be scary as Freddie finds out on a trip to the swimming pool. Lucky his Nanna knows a trick to help him face his fears. You can learn it too in this wonderful book.

By Nail Breslin

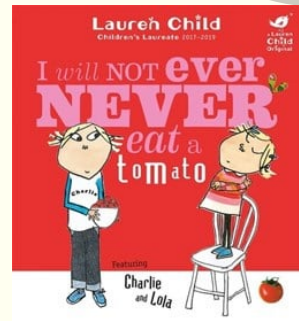


Books about New Experiences

I will never not ever try a tomato

Lola is a picky eater but find out what happens when her big brother Charlie puts a new spin on all the foods she didnt like. Dinner can be fun with a bit of imagination.

By Lauren Child



Don't Worry Little Crab

Scuttle over the rocks and squelch through the seaweed with Little Crab and Big Crab as they make their way to the ocean. Trying new things can be fun if you take it step-by-step.

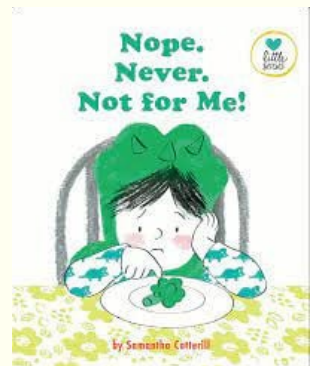
By Chris Haughton



Nope. Never. Not for Me!

Trying new foods can be tricky and scary but not for this 'Try-ceratops'. A great simple story about the sensory issues associated with some foods.

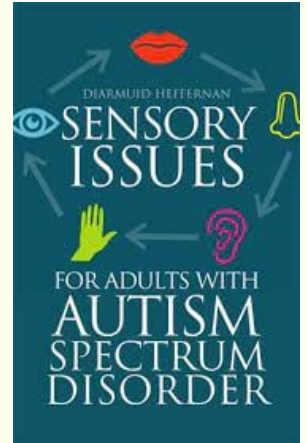
By Samantha Cotterill



Books that explain the world

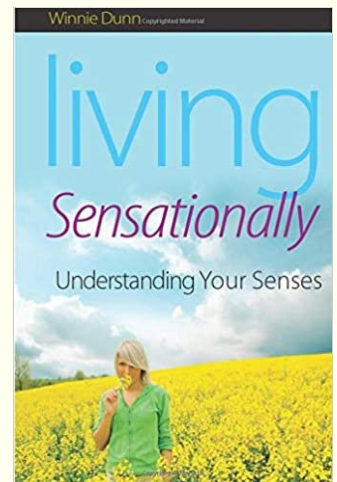
Sensory Issues for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Understanding sensory issues can be the key to overcoming them. Using this practical guide, individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) can begin to understand their sensory difficulties and learn how to create a tailored plan for overcoming specific everyday challenges.
By Diarmuid Heffernan



Living Sensationally

Living Sensationally explains how people's individual sensory patterns affect the way we react to everything that happens to us throughout the day. The author identifies four major sensory types: Seekers; Bystanders; Avoiders and Sensors
By Winnie Dunn

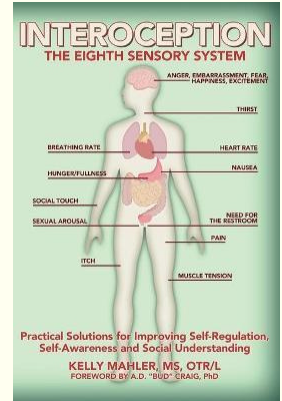


Books that explain the world

Interoception - The Eighth Sensory System

How do you know if you're hungry, thirsty, tired, etc. These are key abilities to live a healthy life. This book gives professionals and parents a new way to consider teaching these talents to individuals with ASD.

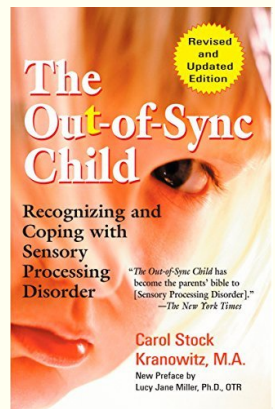
By Kelley Mahler



The Out-of-Sync Child

Sensory Seeking or Sensory Avoidance. These are often the first clues to Sensory Processing Disorder--a common issue in which the central nervous system misinterprets messages from the senses. This book offers clear information for parents and professionals.

By Carol Stock Kranowitz

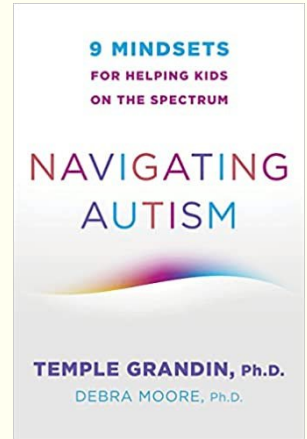


Books that explain the world

Navigating Autism

Temple Grandin joins psychologist Debra Moore in presenting these empowering strategies for parents, teachers and professionals who work with children and teens on the Autism Spectrum.

By Temple Grandin

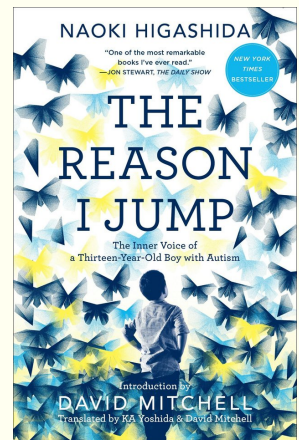


The Reason I Jump

What is it like to have autism?
How can we know what a person - especially a child - with autism is thinking and feeling?

This groundbreaking book, written by Naoki Higashida when he was only thirteen, provides some answers.

By Naoki Higashida.



Monaghan County Libraries:

Branch contact information.

Ballybay Library

email: ballybaylibrary@monaghancoco.ie

Phone: 042 9741256

Carrickmacross Library

email: carrickmacrosslibrary@monaghancoco.ie

Phone: 042 9661148

Castleblayney Library

email: castleblayneylibrary@monaghancoco.ie

Phone: 0429740281

Clones Library

email: cloneslibrary@monaghancoco.ie

Phone: 047 74712

Monaghan Town Library

email: monaghanlibrary@monaghancoco.ie

Phone: 047 81830

Monaghan County Libraries will continue to develop our services to those with additional needs. If you have any suggestions to improve our services you can contact us at libraryactivities@monaghancoco.ie

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



ciste na
gcuntas díomhaoin
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**Libraries
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Makes Every Library
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