

# AUTISTIC BEHAVIORS

Autistic author and consultant, Judy Endow, with invaluable advice for caregivers and teachers to support autistic people with challenging behavior.



1

## KINDNESS AS A CATALYST FOR ACCESS

Kindness and belief that I am doing my best is often the impetus helpful in accessing the action or words I am having trouble with in the moment.



2

## DON'T ASSIGN MOTIVE OR MEANING TO BEHAVIOR

When it comes to autistic individuals, try to refrain from assigning motive and meaning to behavior based on what the behavior would mean were you engaged in it.



3

## ASSUME THE BEHAVIOR MAKES SENSE

Assume that even though you may not understand it, the behavior makes sense to the autistic individual in the context of his experience of the world.



4

## "WON'T" IS OFTEN "CAN'T ACCESS IN THE MOMENT"

Rather than being a matter of won't (as in "he won't tell me or he refuses to tell me") it is a matter of can't (as in he does not have the language, the skills or the ability to tell me in the moment).

**"AUTISM, BEHAVIOR AND THE IMPACT OF KINDNESS"**  
**BY JUDY ENDOW, MSW**