

Curriculum Vitae:

**Robert A. Naseef, Ph.D.
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EDUCATION

Temple University	1988	Ph.D. Psychological Studies in Education. Dissertation: What Helps Families of Exceptional Children to Cope Successfully?
Temple University	1981	M.Ed. Psychology of Reading
Temple University	1971	B.A. English
Holy Cross College	1966-1968	Presidential Scholarship, Biology

LICENSURE:

Psychologist,
Pennsylvania, 1989, Michigan, 2020, New Jersey 2021

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PSYCHOLOGIST

1992- present

Full-time independent practice of psychology specializing in families of children and adults with autism and other special needs. Performs diagnostic evaluations of children and adults for possible autism spectrum disorders. Clinical privileges in psychology, Penn Behavioral Health, University of Pennsylvania Hospital. Internet web site at www.alternativechoices.com. Consultant to school districts and special education parent organizations. Performed disability evaluations for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Disability Determination. Qualified as an expert witness in several legal cases.

Consulting Psychologist Kuwait Center for Autism

2015-2018

Provide diagnostic services for children with autism. Consultation with parents and other family members regarding best practices for parenting children with autism spectrum disorders. Provide training to teachers, therapists, and administrative staff.

Lead Consultant, Arc of Philadelphia

2015-2018

Development of soft skills training curriculum, *Neurodiversity in the Workplace*, for transition age youth with autism spectrum disorders under a grant funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Piloted the training in a corporate setting.

Research Faculty Member

2008-2011

Santa Barbara Graduate Institute of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

FACULTY American Healthcare Institute

1998-2000

Taught course in childhood mood, anxiety, and developmental disorders providing continuing education for psychologists, counselors, and social workers.

CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGIST Mercer County Head Start

1992- 1994

Consultant to demonstration project which increased male parent involvement in Head Start program. Served as field supervisor for doctoral students from Rutgers University Center for Applied Psychology.

Adjunct Faculty

Rider University

1993

Taught masters level course in psychology of personality.

REGIONAL CONSULTANT New Jersey Department of Education

1990-1992

Provided training on a full time basis for school psychologists, social workers, teachers, parents, etc. in preschool handicapped programs for the Division of Special Education. Consulted with school district staff regarding program development. Participated in developing training packages.

FACULTY/COUNSELING DIRECTOR, Peirce Junior College

1981-90

Taught general and managerial psychology courses. Directed Counseling Center and Special Services programs the disadvantaged and students with disabilities. Trained and supervised counselors and graduate practicum students from the University of Pennsylvania. Authored successful proposals for funding for state and federal programs. Served as faculty co-advisor to Black Student Union.

FACULTY

Antioch University Philadelphia

1987 - 1989

Conducted seminars for practicum students in Special Education. Supervised practicum students and students' research projects in special education. Taught courses in research methods, organizational psychology, learning disabilities and emotional disturbance.

PSYCHOTHERAPIST **Institute for Learning** 1982 - 1987

Diagnosed and treated emotionally disturbed and learning disabled children and adults. Created consultative relationships with school counselors and teachers. Counseled families.

TEACHER/COUNSELOR **Philadelphia Literacy Institute** 1979 - 1981

Diagnosed reading disabilities of young inner-city adults. Developed curricula and materials. Counseled students with social and emotional problems.

CASEWORKER **Department of Public Welfare** 1972 - 1978

Determined eligibility for services. Counseled families and drug and alcohol abusers. Referred clients to appropriate social service agencies. Served on Labor-Management Committee.

TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS

Mentally, Physically Handicapped Pennsylvania, 1989

Reading Specialist Pennsylvania, 1981

English Pennsylvania, 1971

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association, 1991-present

Philadelphia Society of Clinical Psychologists, Executive Board Member, 2014-2019

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Leadership Council, (2020-2025)

A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Co-Facilitator Fathers' Support Group, (2019-present)

Panel of Professional Advisors, Autism Society of America (2017-present)

Hilltop Preparatory School, Board of Directors (2016-2019)

Philadelphia Autism Centers of Excellence, Advisory Board (2013-2016)

Elwyn, Philadelphia Preschool Early Intervention Advisory Board (2004-2012)

Variety, The Children's Charity Advisory Board (2005-2011)

Pathway School, Professional Advisory Board (1990-2010)

Center for Autistic Children, Board of Directors (1991-2006)

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Voices in the Family, WHYY Radio with Dan Gottlieb, Ph.D. Autism in the Family, March, 25 2013

O Magazine, “An Inconvenient Youth”, September 2009.

Autism Awareness Interview, 6ABC News, June 26, 2006

Voices in the Family, WHYY Radio with Dan Gottlieb, Ph.D. Autism: The Most Widely Diagnosed Mental Disorder. April 25, 2005.

WHYY TV Wider Horizons. “The Circle of Love.” January 21, 2004.

Real Life. CN 8 with Mary Amoroso. “Pulled in One Direction: When a Child has Special Needs.” February 18, 2003.

Voices in the Family, WHYY Radio with Dan Gottlieb, Ph.D. Autism, September 2002.

Voices in the Family, WHYY Radio with Dan Gottlieb, Ph.D. “Children with Special Healthcare Needs”, October 2001.

Positive Parenting. KOIT Radio with Armin Brott. “Special Children, Challenged Parents, “ April 1998.

Radio Times, WHYY Radio, with Tracey Tannenbaum, “Fathers of Children with Disabilities,” August 1997.

Voices in the Family, WHYY Radio and NPR, with Dan Gottlieb, Ph.D. “Autism,” July 1997.

Action News, WPVI TV with Dan Cuellar. “Rain Man,” December 1988.

PUBLICATIONS

2025: Reframing Pathological Demand Avoidance: A Neurodiversity-Affirming Perspective, with Stephen Shore, *Autism Spectrum News*, Summer 2025

2024: We’re All on the Same Side, with Stephen Shore, *Autism Spectrum News*, Spring 2024

2023: Don’t Divide the Autism Spectrum: Unite the Whole Community, *Autism Spectrum News*, Summer 2023.

2022: Let’s NOT Divide the Autism Spectrum: My view from the trenches on Profound

- Autism, *Autism Spectrum News*, November 29, 2022.
- 2021: Hannon, Michael & Naseef, Robert. Transformed by the journey: building community with diverse fathers of people with autism. 10.1016/B978-0-323-85031-5.00027-X.
- 2020: Stronger Than We Think: The Advantages of Neurodiversity in the Face of Adversity. *Autism Spectrum News*, Summer 2020.
- 2020: If My Son Could Speak, *Autism Spectrum News*, Winter 2020, 21 and 33.
- 2016: Autism: Inclusion benefits everyone. *International Teacher Magazine*, December 2016.
- 2015: Understanding the Father Factor while Raising Children with ASD, *Autism Spectrum News*, Spring 2016, 24 and 36.
- 2013: *Autism in the Family: Caring and Coping Together*. Baltimore: Paul Brookes Publishing.
- 2012: Naseef, R. and Freedman, B. A Diagnosis of Autism is not a Prognosis of Divorce: Myths and Realities of Maintaining a Marriage as Parents of a Child with Autism. *Advocate*, Fall, 9-12.
- 2009: Acceptance, If It Doesn't Mean Giving Up: What Does It Mean? *Spectrum Magazine*, Winter 2009, p. 72.
- Gottlieb, D., Naseef, R., Shore, S. *Living Along the Autism Spectrum* [DVD]. Autism Asperger Publishing Company, KS: Shawnee Mission.
- 2006: Oberleitner, R, Ball, J., Gillete, D., **Naseef, R.**, Hudnall, Stamm, B. Technologies to Lessen the Distress of Autism in *Trauma Treatment Techniques: Innovative Trends*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press.
- 2005: Ariel, C, and **Naseef, R** *Voices from the Spectrum: Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, People With Autism, And Professionals Share Their Wisdom*. London: Jessica Kingsley.
- 2002: September 12: The Mourning After (Clinical Insights Column). The Best Practices, Newsletter of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders, 2(4), 11-13.
- When the Bough Breaks: A Father's Story. Journal of Religion, Disability, and Health 6(1), 75-88.
- 2001: *Special Children, Challenged Parents: The Struggles and Rewards of Raising a Child With Disability, Revised Edition*. Baltimore: Paul Brookes Publishing Company.

The Rudest Awakening in *You Will Dream New Dreams: Inspiring Personal Stories by*

Parents of Children with Disabilities edited by Stanley D. Klein, Ph.D. and Kim Schive.
New York: Kensington Books.

2000: When needs become overwhelming. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Commentary, January 9.

1999: Book Review: *The Birth of a Mother: How the Motherhood experience Changes You Forever*. *Journal of Developmental and Learning Disorders* 3(2), 279-282.

Book Review: *A Slant of Sun: One Child's Courage*. *Journal of Developmental and Learning Disorders* 3(1), 109-111.

An Insider's View of the Invisible Challenges: Understanding parents of children with mental, emotional and behavioral disorders. *Healing Magazine*, Spring.

1998: Big Boys Don't Cry...on the Outside, That Is. *Rehabilitation Digest*. 28(4), 2-6.

Understanding Challenged Parents: The story of a father and son with special needs. *Children and Families* (National Head Start Association). 17(3), 24-27.

The Father Factor: The experience of the father of a child with a disability has its own special needs. *Special Kids*, Fall 1998, 16-19.

A Self-Portrait of a Mother's Love. *Advocate* (Autism Society of America), 31(6), 21.

1997: *Special Children, Challenged Parents: The Struggles and Rewards of Raising a Child With Disability*. New York: Birch Lane Press.

1996: Healing Broken Dreams. *Exceptional Parent*, March 1996, 37-38.

1995: Siblings of Children with Autism: Honoring Their Perspective. *Philadelphia Autism Society Newsletter*, Fall 1995, 25-26.

1993: Implementing The Americans with Disabilities Act: Unleashing Ability with Accommodations in *20 Active - Training Programs, Volume II*, edited by Mel Silberman. San Diego: Pfeiffer and Company.

1992: The Magic of Male Involvement with Darryl Reaves. *National Head Start Association Journal*, 9(4), 28-31.

1991: Lost Dreams, New Hopes. *Journal of Counseling and Development*, 70(2), 354-355.

1990: Contributor to *Enhancing Parent/Educator Collaboration in the Special Education Process*. New Jersey State Department of Education, 5-17.

1990: Serving the handicapped in higher education: A family systems perspective.

- Journal of the National Council of Educational Opportunity Organizations*, 4(3), 12-15.
- 1989: How families cope successfully with a handicapped child: A qualitative study. *Resources in Education*, ED 310 601.
- 1988: Research suggests coping strategies for families of exceptional children". *Spectrum*, 6(1), 1-7.
- 1987: Parents of exceptional children: What helps them cope with the situation. *Spectrum*,(5)1, 1-6.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Highlights)

- Revisiting Masculinity: Support and Insight for Fathers, Converge Autism Conference Keynote. Greenville, March 4, 2025.
- Neurodivergence in Autism: Insights and Interventions. Continuing Education, Pennsylvania Association of Social Worker, October 7, 2023.
- Neurodiversity as a Movement for Social Justice. Elwyn, Philadelphia, September 17, 2023.
- Inclusive Employment Training Project with Stephen Shore for Qatar Foundation for Career Development, Doha, Qatar. March 6-9, 2023.
- Supporting Fathers of Autistic Children: Group Counseling Sessions to Instill Hope, Give Community, and Improve Family Relationships with Michael Hannon. Continuing Education, PESI, April 20, 2023.
- Autism in the Family: Taking Care of Everyone's Needs. Phoenix ASA, September 20, 2022.
- UNC Autism Fathers Conference, April 30, 2022.
- Racial Disparities and Neurodivergence in Autism: Strategies for Systemic Change for Equitable Care with Michael Hannon. Continuing Education, PESI, April 21, 2022.
- Autism and Relationships: Real Life Coping. Autism Society Central Virginia, November 9, 2021.
- Special Children, Challenged Parents, Caring Professionals: Building Partnerships. Inservice, Easter Seals, Philadelphia, November 2, 2021.
- Fathers' Voices: A Panel Discussion on Raising Children on the Spectrum. Philadelphia Autism Project, November 11, 2020.

Involved Fathers Get Results. Floortime Conference, San Francisco, October 4, 2019.

Preparing Young People with Autism for Employment: Key Concepts and Implications. Untangle Autism Conference. Bahrain, April 4, 2019.

Autism and Employment: Promising Trends in Adulthood. Philadelphia Society of Clinical Psychologists, March 16, 2019.

Autism and the Family: Taking Care of Everyone's Needs. National Autism Conference. State College, Pennsylvania. July 31, 2017

Involved Fathers Get Results: Engaging Fathers and Strengthening Families. Autism Society Conference, Milwaukee. July 14, 2017.

Parent Keynote Panel. Autism Society Conference, Milwaukee. July 13, 2017.

Neurodiversity in the Workplace with Stephen Shore and Tanya Regli. Autism Society Conference. July 14, 2017.

Autism Screening and Diagnosis. Gulf Autism Union. Kuwait City, Kuwait. March 21-22, 2017.

Autism Screening and Diagnosis. (IBCCES). Saint Andrew's Autism Center, Singapore, March 16-17, 2017.

Acceptance Does Not Mean Giving Up; But What Does it Mean? International Symposium on Cognitive Research and Disabilities, IBCCES. Saint Augustine. February 13, 2017.

Effective Strategies for Teaching Students with Autism. International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES). Saint Andrew's Autism Center, Singapore. December 8-9, 2016.

Autism Society of America Conference, Guy Talk: Engaging Fathers and Strengthening Families, Denver, July 10, 2015.

Jeddah Institute for Speech and Hearing, Being Present: The Family Journey to Acceptance and Resilience, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, April 11, 2015.

Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Training for Mandated Reporters, Philadelphia Society of Clinical Psychologists, January 22, 2015.

World Autism Congress, Autism and the Family: Getting the Big Picture, Kuwait City, Kuwait, November 12, 2014.

Devereux Family Resilience Conference Keynote, Being Present: The Family Journey to Acceptance and Resilience, Villanova, PA, October 19, 2013.

Panel Chair, Fatherhood Forum: A Panel Discussing the Special Contributions and Needs of Fathers. Autism Society of America Conference, July 10, 2010 and July 7, 2011

Families of Children with Autism: Caring for Everyone's Needs, Penn State National Autism Conference, August 3, 2009 and August 9, 2010

Living with Autism: Perspectives from Real Life (Co-presented with Stephen Shore)
Autism Society of America, National Conference, July 25, 2009

Autism and Marriage: From Challenges to Coping Strategies to Relationship Enhancement
Autism Society of America, National Conference, July 23, 2009

2nd Annual University of Pennsylvania Health System PENN Autism Network Conference:
Journeys Through Adolescence and Adulthood, Plenary Session Chair, March 16, 2007

We Are Not Alone: Living and Loving with Mental Health Issues in the Family. Keynote
to Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, April 22, 2006.

"Understanding the Role of Fathers in Families of Children with Developmental Disabilities:
Insights and Interventions." Psychology Department, Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia, March 31, 2006.

1st Annual University of Pennsylvania Health System PENN Autism Network Conference:
Autism Spectrum Disorders: Promoting Successful Outcomes Across the Life Cycle,
The Culture of ASD, Panel member, March 17, 2006.

From Romantic Love to Mature Intimacy. Presented to the Mayor's Commission on People with
Disabilities, February 14, 2005.

Life Along the Spectrum: Living with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Co-presented with Stephen
Shore. Elwyn, Philadelphia Preschool Early Intervention, June 4, 2004.

Understanding Families: Clinical Insights and Reflections. Presented to the Regional Council Of
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. January 18, 2003.

"Children with Special Needs; A Global Perspective." Keynote address for the Association for
Early Intervention. Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, April 2002.

"Parent-Professional Partnerships: What Works and What Doesn't." Keynote address presented
to Pathways Conference. Anchorage, November 2002.

"The Father Factor: Understanding the Special Needs of Fathers." Abilities Expo presentation.
Boston, October 2000.

- “Being and Becoming a Father of a Child with Special Needs.” Keynote address presented to Washington State Fathers' Conference. Seattle, June 2000
- “Children’s Mental Health in the New Millennium.” Keynote address to Parents Involved Network of Pennsylvania, May 2000.
- “Aging Caregivers and Their Mental Health Concerns.” Keynote address to the ARCoalition. Philadelphia, May 2000.
- “Insights and Reflections on Families.” Autism 2000 Conference Keynote. Wilkes Barre, April 2000.
- “Special Children, Challenged Parents, Caring Professionals.” Keynote Address to Parent-Educator Connection Conference. Des Moines, February, 2000.
- “When the Miracle Doesn’t Come.” Parent Panel Presentation, Interdisciplinary Council for Developmental and Learning Disorders Conference, November 1999.
- “The Passions of Parenthood.” Alliance Breakfast Keynote Address. Philadelphia, October 1999.
- “Families of Children with Special Needs: Insights and Interventions.” Grand Rounds, Psychiatry Department, Elizabeth General Medical Center. October 1999.
- “First Aid for Your Relationship.” Keynote for Ventilator Assisted Program, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, October 1999.
- “Everybody’s Special.” Keynote Address presented for Michigan Department of Education. Battle Creek, October, 1999.
- “Understanding and Collaborating With Families.” Boggs’ Center UAP Lecture Series, University of medicine and dentistry of New Jersey, May 1999.
- Forum on Fatherhood: When Children Have Special Needs, Co-Chair. Philadelphia, April 1999.
- “Fragile Children, Challenged Parents.” A featured presentation, National Conference, Children Who Are Medically Complex or Technology Dependent.” Philadelphia, March 1999.
- “Clinical Interventions in Perinatal Social Work.” Philadelphia Perinatal Social Workers Network Conference. October, 1998.
- “Special Children, Challenged Parents, Caring Professionals: Building Links That Endure” Keynote Address presented to Portland State University Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children’s Mental Health National Conference. April 1998.

“Building New Dreams: For Parents of Children with Deaf-Blindness.” Workshop presented for GLARCDBE. Columbus, Ohio, July 1997.

“Issues facing Siblings of Children with Disabilities.” Workshop presented for GLARCDBE. Madison, Wisconsin. May, 1997.

“Ordinary Parents, Exceptional Children”. Keynote Address presented to Lancaster County Interagency Coordinating Council, May 1996.

“Building Parent-Professional Partnerships”. Keynote Address presented to Philadelphia County Interagency Coordinating Council, October 1995.

"The Rewards and Challenges of Parenting a Child with a Disability". Keynote address, Passaic County Interagency Coordinating Committee Conference, October 1994.

"Parent and Staff Relations within the Head Start Program". Keynote address presented to Bucks County Head Start Pre-service Day, August 1993.