

Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism

Barry M. Prizant



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A groundbreaking book on autism, by one of the world's leading experts, who portrays autism as a unique way of being human—this is "required reading....Breathtakingly simple and profoundly positive" (*Chicago Tribune*).

Autism therapy typically focuses on ridding individuals of "autistic" symptoms such as difficulties interacting socially, problems in communicating, sensory challenges, and repetitive behavior patterns. Now Dr. Barry M. Prizant offers a new and compelling paradigm: the most successful approaches to autism don't aim at fixing a person by eliminating symptoms, but rather seeking to understand the individual's experience and what underlies the behavior.

"A must-read for anyone touched by autism... Dr. Prizant's *Uniquely Human* is a crucial step in promoting better understanding and a more humane approach" (Associated Press). Instead of classifying "autistic" behaviors as signs of pathology, Dr. Prizant sees them as part of a range of strategies to cope with a world that feels chaotic and overwhelming. Rather than curb these behaviors, it's better to enhance abilities, build on strengths, and offer supports that will lead to more desirable behavior and a better quality of life.

"A remarkable approach to autism....A truly impactful, necessary book" (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review), *Uniquely Human* offers inspiration and practical advice drawn from Dr. Prizant's four-decade career. It conveys a deep respect for people with autism and their own unique qualities. Filled with humanity and wisdom, *Uniquely Human* "should reassure parents and caregivers of kids with autism and any other disability that their kids are not broken, but, indeed, special" (*Booklist*, starred review).



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