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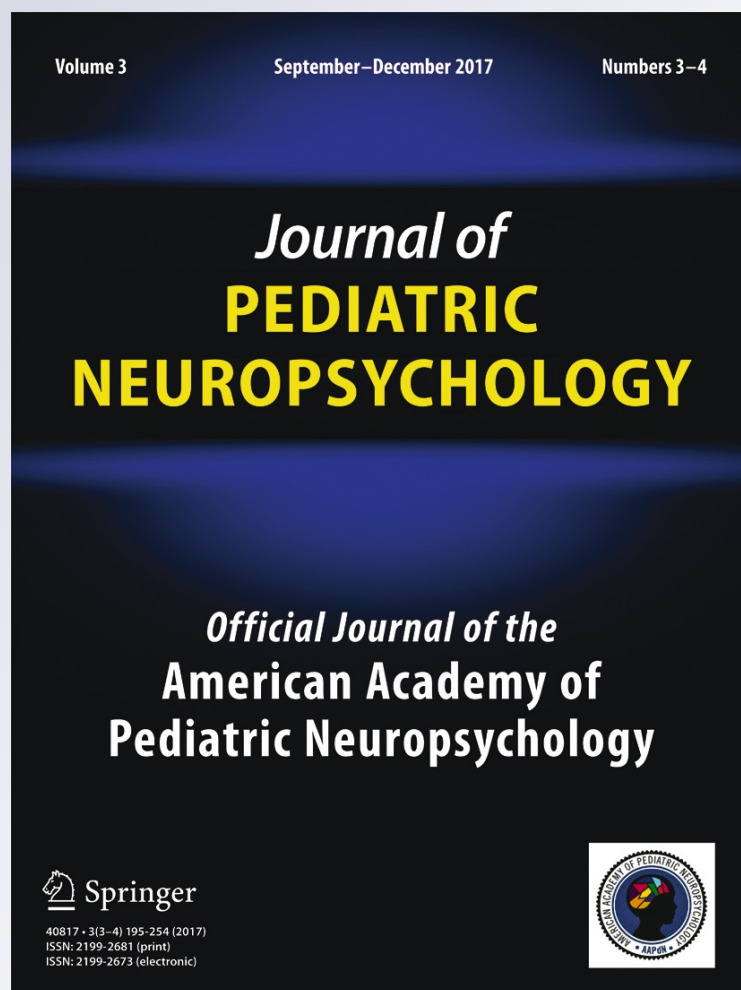
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Review of Handbook of Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Handbook of Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Johnny L. Matson (Ed.), Springer, Switzerland (2016). 477 pp.

The *Handbook of Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder* is a part of Springer's *Autism and Child Psychopathology Series* edited by Johnny L. Matson, Ph.D. If the current volume is any testament, this series should be included in the canon of every child diagnostician. Dr. Matson's experience in developmental disabilities is evident as he guides readers through the history of autism, types and purpose of assessment, screening methods, diagnostics from childhood through adulthood, medical and psychiatric comorbidities, and the neuropsychology of autism. The first chapter of this book, written by Drs. Hilary Adams and Johnny Matson, outlines the history of autism and provides a succinct summary of the purpose of assessment and diagnosis. The book then goes on to outline specific tests and report writing strategies and devotes individual chapters to comorbid conditions such as anxiety, depression, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. Following these chapters, the book takes a step forward by devoting individual chapters to conditions that may be less familiar to readers such as feeding disorders, sleep problems, and cerebral palsy. The book finishes up with chapters on intelligence, executive functioning, neuropsychology, and future visions for best practice assessment and treatment.

The overall purpose of the book appears to have been accomplished by providing a comprehensive review of research in autism that practicing clinicians can use to guide clinical

practice. An important theme throughout the book is the emphasis that is placed on the need for assessment to guide treatment. This concept can sometimes be overlooked when clinicians are caught up in the complexity of assessment. Another important feature of this volume is the thorough explanations of early identification, universal screening, and strategies for identification in schools that are provided. The focus of the final chapter, written by Drs. Lindsey Williams and Johnny Matson, is on visions for the future. This is an important addition to the book as the authors discuss concepts such as ecological momentary assessment, eye tracking, and vocal analysis. As Volker et al. (2011) importantly concluded in the *Handbook of Pediatric Neuropsychology*, a coordinated effort will develop to optimize the timing and impact of behavioral interventions. The *Handbook of Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder* makes an important contribution by providing the resource necessary for proper assessment in order to aid the "coordinated effort" to optimize interventions and treatment.

There are many strengths to this volume but there are also issues that could have been addressed such as redundancy across chapters, especially in regard to diagnostic criteria, descriptions of characteristic behavior, and descriptions of the tools used for assessment (e.g., ADOS). Further, as the text focuses on assessment and diagnosis, a consideration for readers is that they may need to look elsewhere for information on treatment. Upon further investigation, treatment is covered by other books in the series including *Autism Service Delivery, Technology and the Treatment of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*, and *Handbook of Early Intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorders*.

Despite these minor concerns, as an informed clinician, professor, and researcher, I found that I learned a great deal about best practice assessment and diagnosis of autism by reading this book.

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Whether you are new to the world of child psychopathology or are a seasoned veteran, this book has much to offer in the way of updated information on diagnostics and assessment of autism.

Compliance with Ethical Standards This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by the author.

Conflict of Interest The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

References

- Volker, M. A., Thomeer, M. L., & Lopata, C. (2011). Pervasive developmental disorders. In A. Davis (Ed.), *Handbook of Pediatric Neuropsychology*. New York: Springer Publishing.