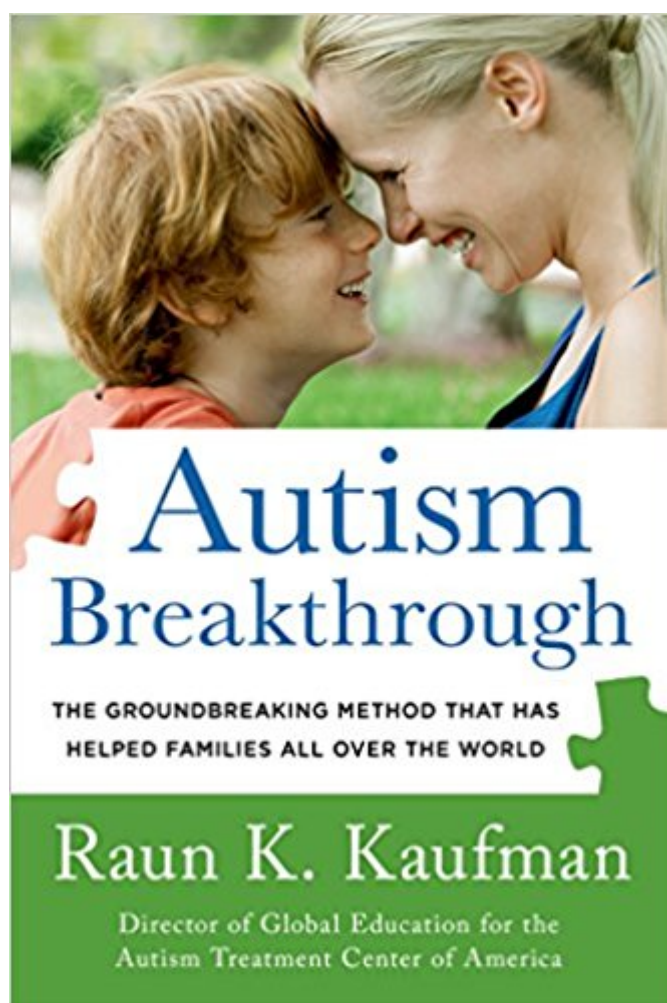


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# Autism Breakthrough: The Groundbreaking Method That Has Helped Families All Over The World



## Synopsis

As a boy, Raun Kaufman was diagnosed by multiple experts as severely autistic, with an IQ below 30, and destined to spend his life in an institution. Years later, Raun graduated with a degree in Biomedical Ethics from Brown University and has become a passionate and articulate autism expert and educator with no trace of his former condition. So what happened? Thanks to The Son-Rise Program, a revolutionary method created by his parents, Raun experienced a full recovery from autism. (His story was recounted in the best-selling book *Son-Rise: The Miracle Continues* and in the award-winning NBC television movie *Son-Rise: A Miracle of Love*.) In *Autism Breakthrough*, Raun presents the ground-breaking principles behind the program that helped him and thousands of other families with special children. Autism, he explains, is frequently misunderstood as a behavioral disorder when, in fact, it is a social relational disorder. Raun explains what it feels like to be autistic and shows how and why The Son-Rise Program works. A step-by-step guide with clear, practical strategies that readers can apply immediately—*in some cases, parents see changes in their children in as little as one day*—Autism Breakthrough makes it possible for these special children to defy their original often-very-limited prognoses. Parents and educators learn how to enable their children to create meaningful, caring relationships, vastly expand their communications, and to participate successfully in the world. An important work of hope, science, and progress, *Autism Breakthrough* presents the powerful ideas and practical applications that have already changed the lives of families all over the world.

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; Reprint edition (March 31, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250063477

ISBN-13: 978-1250063472

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 24.6 x 207.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 179 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #23,036 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in *Books > Parenting & Relationships > Special Needs > Disabilities* #108 in *Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Child Psychology* #117 in *Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Child Psychology*

## Customer Reviews

“Limitless hope . . . his personal faith in the program, his warmth, and the targeted application of principles will encourage readers to try his methods.”  
— Publishers Weekly  
“An innovative, alternative approach to creating a child-centered environment that directly empowers parents and caregivers.”  
— Kirkus  
“His voice is warm and fascinating, his experience is one that will bring confidence to families new to their diagnosis, or who may be struggling to find hope.”  
— Library Journal  
“Reading Autism Breakthrough brought chills to my body and tears of joy to my soul. This book must be read by every parent of a child with autism who wants a step-by-step plan to reach and transform their child. I was there in person when Raun K. Kaufman’s miraculous story began. His full recovery from severe autism -- through The Son-Rise Program that his parents developed to reach him -- changed my life and the life of my daughter, who showed all the signs of early stage autism. Today she thrives because I knew exactly what to do: ignore all of the dire predictions and immerse her in precisely the principles and techniques described in Autism Breakthrough. I couldn’t recommend this book more enthusiastically - not only for those who love a child or adult with challenges, but for all parents and professionals. This book turns the all-powerful principle of unconditional love into a practical blueprint that anyone can follow.”  
— Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, #1 NYT bestselling author of The Power of Intention and thirty other books  
“I learned more about my daughter by reading this book than I have through all of the others I’ve read over the 11 years since her diagnosis. If you’re a parent of a child with Autism, this book truly is a must-read. With case studies, step-by-step instructions and an accompanying website, it’s an invaluable resource that may prompt you to rethink what - and how - your child can best learn and progress to meet their full potential. No matter how old your child is, Autism Breakthrough can help you to connect with them in ways you may have never thought possible.”  
— Wendy Fournier, President, National Autism Association (NAA)  
“Raun K. Kaufman’s book, Autism Breakthrough, is an amazing resource to help you right here and right now to make a huge difference in your child’s progress. His super easy-to-digest guidance on using the techniques of The Son-Rise Program is a game-changer. Given the program’s record of success, the Autism Hope Alliance has funded families to take Son-Rise Program courses at the Autism Treatment Center of America. If you are the parent of a child on the autism spectrum, Autism Breakthrough will give you a whole new way to help your child and take away that nagging fear that so many of us parents feel. My own son is the beneficiary of the principles explained in Autism Breakthrough. I gave birth to my son, but The Son-Rise Program gave him life.”  
— Kristin Selby Gonzalez, President, Autism Hope Alliance

(AHA)“I am a physician who treats thousands of children and adults with all types of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) from mild cases to those that are very severe. My own son is also living with autism. I highly recommend Raun Kaufman’s new book Autism Breakthrough to all parents, to family members, and to practitioners of persons on the autism spectrum. It combines the scientifically validated therapies of The Son-Rise Program with an easy-to-read approach that makes it very informative and highly useful to everyone. I frequently refer our patients to The Son-Rise Program, and I have seen the objective improvements in my patients with my own eyes. It has also helped my own son and our family tremendously. Autism Breakthrough will help you make huge impact in the lives of persons of all ages with ASD’s, and it will provide great benefit and comfort to the families and to practitioners.”

Phillip C. DeMio, M.D., Executive Director, American Medical Autism Board, & Chief Medical Officer, US Autism & Asperger Association

“If you are the parent of a child on the autism spectrum, Autism Breakthrough by Raun K. Kaufman was written just for you. It describes a fantastic treatment method – The Son-Rise Program – for families dealing with the challenges of autism. In my practice of psychiatry in a teaching hospital over several decades, I have never been introduced to a set of clinical principles as powerful, elegant and effective. The outcomes are truly stunning: children make concrete and sweeping progress, often far outstripping their original prognosis, and parents overcome feelings of devastation and learn to accept, enjoy, and meaningfully help their children. With humor and caring, Kaufman answers the question "What do I need to do to create a wonderful relationship with my child?" Autism Breakthrough not only provides the reader with clear techniques and documents amazing clinical outcomes, it is a testament to the impact of hope, love and acceptance in our lives! I personally see applications of the principles in all clinical endeavors.”

Ted McCarthy, M.D., Former Chief of Psychiatry, Mercy Hospital

“With Autism Breakthrough, Raun K. Kaufman has done what few else in the field of autism treatment today would dream of doing. He has empowered parents to take charge again, given them real hope for positive change, and armed them with specific tools and techniques to make those hopes a reality for their children. Our children are not ‘stuck’ with neurological problems. Autism is not hard-wired. I know this as fact, for my own son fully recovered from autism to become the president of his 6th grade class today (in a regular, mainstream school) thanks to my family’s adoption of the very principles of The Son-Rise Program that Raun explains in Autism Breakthrough. As a medical professional, I know that medicine today offers little to these children other than a dismal prognosis. It doesn’t have to be that way! Not only do many children completely recover using this program, but whole families change and grow and thrive.”

“Autism Breakthrough truly breaks through the ‘autism is a life-long condition’ paradigm and shifts hopelessness to hope. As occupational therapists and international lecturers, we will be highly recommending this wonderful “user-friendly” resource with all the principles, strategies, and techniques needed to support children and adults with social-relational challenges. A must-read, not only for parents but for all teachers, therapists, and staff who support those on the autism spectrum!

MarySue Williams and Sherry Shellenberger, Creators of Alert Program, Authors of Alert Program books, games and trainings

“Insightful, personal, and accessible. A hopeful message and one which only a person that has looked through the eyes of an autistic child could offer. Autism Breakthrough is a must read for all parents of special children, its depth will touch you, and practical advice will empower you to join your child on their journey toward achieving their unique and limitless potential.”

Alex Doman, Author of Healing at the Speed of Sound, Founder & CEO Advanced Brain Technologies, creators of The Listening Program

RAUN K. KAUFMAN is the Director of Global Education for the Autism Treatment Center of America. As the key spokesperson for ATCA and the Son-Rise Program, he conducts lectures and seminars worldwide and has worked with families and professionals for over 15 years. Kaufman and his work have been covered on NPR, BBC, Fox News, and People Magazine, among other outlets. He co-hosts the radio show Raun & Kristin: Bringing Hope Into Your Home on Autism Approved Radio and is currently serving as the Director of Global Education for the Autism Treatment Center of America. He lives in Sheffield, Massachusetts and Portland, Oregon.

I’ve taken three Son-Rise courses at the Autism Treatment Institute of America in Sheffield, MA, and I can say that if the lessons are applied as they are taught (which includes a good long look at your own heart in this process of bringing up a child with ASD), it may be the most effective intervention out there. Over time, you will likely see an improvement in the social and communication aspects of your autistic child. However, you do have to bring some time, energy, love, and enthusiasm to the process for it to have an effect. I’ve also received training in Verbal Behavior (a type of ABA) and Relationship Development Intervention (RDI), and we have done a number of other interventions with our child. I can say from experience, that even though it is my favorite intervention, Son-Rise is not the ONLY good intervention out there. Almost EVERY intervention is helpful when done correctly and with the right mindset. Bottom line is if you spend a lot of time playing with a child with love in your heart and without feeling impatient, critical, nervous, or super pushy, you will probably

help them. That is the most important thing you can bring to your child, no matter what intervention you choose. People in the autism world love to judge each others' interventions as ineffective for some reason, and the Son-Rise team is no exception to this industry-wide flaw. I took off one star for this bias. There was a lot of criticism specifically regarding ABA. I'm assuming it's because the Kaufmans were introduced to ABA at a time when Lovaas was doing things like administering punitive electric shocks and tying people to chairs. I understand why they would hate that, but come on, it's 40-50 years later now and that doesn't happen anymore. The newer style of ABA is reward-based and can be very effective for shaping behavior when done by a person with a good mindset and some flexibility. Plus there are a lot of behavioral principles both interventions have in common. This practice of presenting a divided front among intervention providers leads to confusion among parents as to which intervention to choose. As for our family, we have tried almost every intervention out there- ABA, Son-Rise, Floortime, RDI, speech therapy, occupational therapy, special education, and I can say that EVERY intervention has been helpful for our child when done by someone with a loving and flexible heart for children. That's the most important part- the heart of the person doing the therapy, not the intervention itself. The person needs to like to play with children, have integrity, and have the right mindset. If they have those things, you're 90% there. The intervention choice is about 10% of the equation. Seriously. Good attitude gets good results, negative attitude gets negative results. Back to Son-Rise- this is my favorite intervention, for two reasons- 1 it's effective, and 2. it empowering and gets your head and heart into the right place. What do I dislike about Son-Rise? It takes time, but they all do, I guess, lol. My head is isn't always in the right place all the time after all, but that's ok. I'm a work in progress, like my son. How do I know Son-Rise is effective? Because my son responded positively and improved his communication, eye contact, and ability to be around people without losing it. There were immediate results, such as increased eye contact and a happy play experience, and also results down the road, such as better communication and increased tolerance of change and stimuli. Note regarding the word "cure". The Kaufmans like this word because they are laypeople. The medical community hates the "cure" word because it is nearly impossible to quantify. This is why medicine hardly ever uses the word "cure". For example, when you get better from say, a cold, doctors never say "cured", but "better". So to all you medical people, when the Kaufmans say "cure", just think "better" or "we can't detect it any more". Don't get tied up in a pretzel over it. Their son is better now. You can't detect the autism any more, so they of course, say he's cured. However, Raun is an anomaly. Most people who do this intervention or any other, are still autistic afterward. Most do not get to the point of no symptoms like Raun Kaufman did. But over time, most people do improve- some marginally,

some dramatically. You just have to get some good people and try for a long time.

Without a doubt this is the best book on helping our children with autism I have ever read. I agree 100% with the method used, as I have used it with my son over the last 8 years of homeschooling. While this type of therapy might not be for a parent who is much more strict and would rather send their child somewhere to be "fixed", without a doubt it will help you create an incredible relationship with your child, it will drastically improve your child's autistic behaviors and most importantly create a sense of calmness and happiness in both your child and family that is much needed. Autistic children are incredibly sensitive to many things and stress is a major factor in their behaviors, STIMs, etc. By creating a home and relationship focused on acceptance but also one where the sky is the limit, your child without a doubt improve dramatically. I have even used some of these techniques with a young man who is 29 and in a way, so has my son (as that is how HE communicates with others with autism as well) and even his mother was in awe of the communication that my son and I have been able to have with her son. This is a young man who normally talks about his special interest constantly, without really listening or holding a conversation with others and after a few times of seeing him, his mother watched for the first time her son having an actual conversation about a different topic with my son while playing on the computer. I wish every single parent out there tried this BEFORE anything else—your life, your family's life and that of your child will be greatly improved by reading this book and applying the principles in it.

I love this book. I think the most important thing with our special babies is to connect with them, attract them to our world and motivate them to stay with us. They don't have to be a cookie cutter kid, we all have strengths and weaknesses and they should be emphasized more than the desire to change the "unwanted" (to the rest of the world?) behavior. Raun K is an excellent author and generous enough to share his own life experience with us. Wonderful and optimistic approach and a must read!

I can't say enough about this book, the impact it has had on my life, and just how much I think of The Autism Treatment Center of America and all the truly genuine, kind hearted, loving, inspiring, amazing people that work there. This book spoke to me in so many ways that I could not put it down. I needed guidance, direction and understanding of our son and this was THE ONLY book that delivered it!!!! I think when parents get a diagnosis of Autism they should be handed 3 books

before they leave the Dr.'s office .... "Autism Breakthrough" by Raun Kaufman, "Autistic Logistics" by Kate Wilde, and "Chicken Soup for the Soul - Raising Kids on the Spectrum". The best thing you can do for yourself and your child is to read this book!!! Even better than that ... Go to the Start-Up program!!!! I cannot recommend it enough to everyone out there wondering if this is the real deal or not. I read this book in January and started seeing immediate changes in our son when using some of the techniques. I attended the program in April and within 5 days of being home our son started imitating sounds back and forth for the first time ever. I have seen more changes in my son within the past month than I saw in the past 2 years of him working with 6 different therapists!!! In 4 months I have documented 3 full pages of changes we have seen in our son and it has been nothing short of amazing. We know our family is finally heading in the right direction and we couldn't be more excited to be on this journey with The Son Rise Program. Thank You Raun Kaufman for giving the world such a beautiful gift!!!!

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