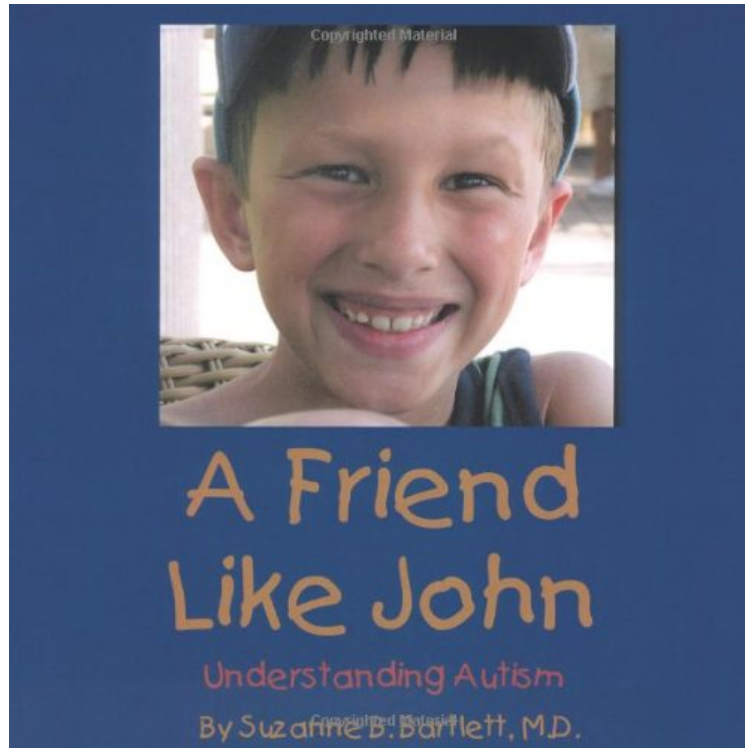


## A Friend Like John: Understanding Autism

*M.D. Suzanne B. Bartlett*

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**M.D. Suzanne B. Bartlett : A Friend Like John: Understanding Autism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Friend Like John: Understanding Autism:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Resource for Teachers and ParentsBy Jolene PhiloIn November of 2011, I had a book table at an event raising funds for brain research. Across the room was another author, Suzanne Bartlett. Like me, she is a mom who decided to write a book after she became the parent of a child with special needs.She is also a medical doctor and is raising two kids with her husband. Their oldest child, John, experiences autism. Susan wrote a "A Friend Like John: Understanding Autism" to explain the condition to typical elementary-aged kids. She uses color, a puzzle piece theme, and kid language to accomplish that goal.The book would make a lovely Christmas present for kids, public libraries, or church libraries, or a school teacher. If I was still teaching, I would be reading it to my students every fall. It's a great tool for demystifying autism by explaining it to kids.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Great Way to Teach Children about AutismBy SaraI work in schools with children in special education. Many of the children I work with have autism, and my job is to teach them new behaviors to replace their inappropriate behaviors. Many children in both regular and special education do not always understand why somebody is behaving the way they do. This is the first book I've come across that teaches children in an easy to read and entertaining way that everybody is different, yet so similar. After reading this book, children may have a better understanding of autism and more acceptance of peers who behave differently than they do. I highly recommend this book to parents, educators, and anyone else who works with children. It may improve their social skills and acceptance of differences, which are skills that can last a lifetime.1 of 1 people found the following

review helpful. Beautiful book. Beautiful Introduction  
By R. Clausen I just finished reading this new book and loved the beautiful graphics and layout of the book, complete with the Autism Puzzle theme. Even more than that, however, I loved the upbeat introduction to John, a second grader with autism. From the photos and descriptions you see John as a real life boy with lots of interests and abilities. You are also introduced to his challenges and prompted to consider how sometimes we all might experience some of these challenges in certain situations. Suzanne Bartlett guides us through a gentle, accepting introduction to the world of autism that demystifies this growing disability among our young children. What a wonderful book to introduce any classroom of young children to an awareness of autism in their school and community.

A Friend Like John; Understanding Autism is intended for elementary-aged peers of children with autism, and is based on the life and traits of the author's son, John, age 8. Unlike other children's books, which do an excellent job of presenting autism, this book illustrates the fact that children with autism have many similarities to typically-developing children. On each page, questions are posed to the reader such as, "have you ever felt like that? " The goal is to foster acceptance of children with autism by their typically-developing friends, family and classmates. Whereas the differences children with autism have are often obvious to others, sometimes we forget that we all do have many things in common.

About the Author Suzanne Bartlett is the mother of an eight-year-old son with autism, as well as a practicing physician, specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. She is currently the First Vice President of the Autism Society of Iowa, and served as a member of the Act Early Autism Summit sponsored by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in February 2008. Dr. Bartlett speaks regularly at the University of Northern Iowa and Wartburg College, and has presented at the University of Iowa Department of Pediatrics, the Center for Development and Disabilities, and the University of Iowa College of Medicine. She has assisted the Iowa Governor's Autism Council in the recent passage of health care legislation. She is also actively involved with the organizations Autism Speaks and the International Society for Autism Research.