

Jennifer O'Toole



(From Wikipedia)

...is best known for her *Asperkids* series of books, which have been translated into four languages, *Sisterhood of the Spectrum*, and *Speaking Geek* multimedia series, aimed at educating people from the perspective of someone with Asperger syndrome/autism. O'Toole's memoir, *Autism in Heels: The Untold Story of a Female Life on the Spectrum* will be published in 2018. She was diagnosed with autism (Asperger Syndrome) in 2011, just after her children received similar diagnoses. O'Toole is featured contributor to Dr. Tony Atwood's *Top Aspie Mentors: Been There, Done That* and *Autism & Learning*

Differences, and wrote the foreword to *Dragonfly: A Daughter's Emergence from Autism: A Practical Guide for Parents* and to *Easy to Love, Hard to Live With*. O'Toole sits on the Autism Society of America's Panel of People on the Spectrum, is a columnist/expert panelist for Amy Poehler's Smart Girls at the Party, Autism Asperger's Digest, AuKids Magazine, "Special" Magazine, and the Journal for the North American Montessori Teachers' Association. She is a commentator on National Public Radio's WFAE Charlotte Talks and NBC's Charlotte Today.

50-Word Bio Sketch:

Jennifer O'Toole is the author of ASA's 2014 Outstanding Literary Work and bestselling Asperkids series. One of Tony Attwood's "Top Aspie Mentors" and winner of the Temple Grandin Award, Jennifer has advised the President's Council on Disabilities and keynotes internationally. She is an Aspie and proud mom of three Asperkids.

200-word Bio Sketch:

Smart. Lively. Cheeky. A global conversation-starter with a doppelganger Sesame Street muppet. That's Jennifer O'Toole, author of the "Asperkids" series and "Sisterhood of the Spectrum," the award-winning, best-selling autism-related book collection in the world, and the highly-anticipated "Autism in Heels: The Untold Story of a Female Life of the Spectrum," already named a "Top Amazing Feminist Book of 2018" and an Amazon #1 New Release.

At the age of thirty-five, Jennifer O'Toole was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome (autism), just after her three young children had been similarly identified. It was 2011, and for the first time in her life, things made sense.

They made so much sense, in fact, that now, Jennifer is the winner of the Autism Society of America's 2014 Outstanding Literary Work of the Year and the 2012 Temple Grandin Award for Outstanding Global Contributions, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in North Carolina and 25 Most Amazing Autistic Women, is a recipient of GRASP's Distinguished Spectrumite Parenting Medal and the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Women Inspiring Hope and Strength Award, was named AuKids Speaker of the Year, and has been celebrated by Disney's Babble and The Mighty. She is "Ask the Expert" columnist for healthline.com, sits on the Professional Panel of the Autism Society of America, and is a go-to editorialist/columnist for Amy Poehler's girl-power juggernaut, "Smart Girls at the Party."

From her own struggles and self-discovery, Jennifer has built an empire of empowerment. She's been invited to speak on Capitol Hill, and to the President's Council on Fitness at the White House Summit on Americans with Disabilities, was the Guest of Honor of Their Royal

Highnesses, the UK's Princess Sophie and Princess Marie of Denmark. She and was added to the "Who's Who" list of International Aspie Mentors — along with Temple Grandin and Stephen Shore — to contribute to Dr. Tony Attwood's "Been There. Done That. Try This." anthology. Jennifer's unique "have a cup of coffee with me" conversationalist presentation of useful insights has touched hearts, lightened spirits, and broadened minds around the world.

On Air & In the Press

In August 2015, as creator and host of the brand-new iTunes podcast/YouTube show, "Speaking Geek," Jennifer broke ground with the first-ever weekly series "translating the typical" for people on the autism spectrum. In addition, her series for Amy Poehler's Smart Girls at the Party, "This Girl's Dance with Autism," became the most popular ever published on the site.

Jennifer has appeared on the cover of numerous magazines, and is a beloved presenter, winning AuKids' Magazine's "Speaker of the Year" for very first presentation (in 2012). She keynotes internationally for thousands at some of the industry's largest events, including the featured presentation for the Autism Society of America's National Conference, the USAAA World Conference, North American Montessori Teachers' Association, The National Inclusion Project, the UK's National Autistic Society, Ireland's SHINE, Denmark's Sikon,

and frequently at mega conferences alongside her colleagues (and close friends) Drs. Grandin and Attwood.

Jennifer was named one of North Carolina's "50 Most Influential Women" and Autism Newscast's "25 Most Amazing Women with Autism," the cover story of "hope, humor & positivity" for Zoom Autism Magazine, a mentor for Yale's Child Study Center where her books serve as foundational texts, and a member of The Global Montessori Alliance.

She also had the privilege of consulting with the Children's Television Workshop on the creation of Sesame Street's first autistic character (oddly enough, a green-eyed, redheaded girl!). Jennifer's "Asperkids" Facebook Fan Page and blog have both been chosen by Disney/Babble to the Top 30 Autism Sites in the World.

O'Toole is an "Ask the Expert" columnist for healthline.com, a regular for *Autism Asperger's Digest* and *The Australian Autism Asperger's Network*, and contributes to *Autism Spectrum Quarterly* and "Special" Magazine among others. She has been featured by the BBC World Service, NBC, National Public Radio, Autism News Digest's

“Most Amazing Autistic Women,” and “The Guardian,” the United Kingdom’s most widely- circulated newspaper.

O’Toole graduated with honors from Brown University and has since studied at the Graduate School of Social Work at Columbia University and Graduate School of Education at Queens University. Subsequent initiatives with young people garnered her an invitation to serve on North Carolina’s Governor’s Commission on Domestic Violence, and a nomination for Disney’s American Teacher of the Year Award in her first year of teaching.

In response to the overwhelming popularity of her message, she founded Asperkids, LLC, a multimedia social re-education company that prides itself on sassy humor, witty creativity, useful strategies and relentless positivity...that has grown to include partnerships with ThinkFun Toys and the creation of an original line of AK products.

To all of it, the response has been overwhelming. From her own struggles and self-discovery, she has built an empire of empowerment, inspiring people the world over to realize they aren't mistakes. They are misunderstood miracles.

As one Irish reader shared, “There’s life before Jennifer’s work. And then there’s living.”

Bibliography

Asperkids series

- **Asperkids: An Insider's Guide to Loving, Understanding and Teaching Children with Asperger Syndrome (2012)**
(about.com "Reader's Choice Winner: Best Parent Resource," Autism Speaks "Top 10 Family Resources," AADigest "Top 10 Books to Read for Families" AND "Top 10 Books to Read for Teachers")
- **The Asperkids' (Secret) Book of Social Rules: The Handbook of Not-So- Obvious Guidelines for Teens and Tweens (2012)**
(Autism Society of America's "Temple Grandin Outstanding Literary Work of the Year," Scholastic "Top 10 Must Read List," The Mighty "10 Best Autism Books" about.com "Reader's Choice Winner: Best Teen Resource," Autism Speaks "Top 10 Family Resources," AADigest "Top 10 Books to Read for Families")
- **The Asperkid's Launch Pad: Home Design That Empowers Everyday Superheroes (2013)**
(AADigest "Top 10 Books to Read for Families," Living Now "Readers' Choice Best Book Award," Autism Speaks "Top 10 Family Resources")
- **The Asperkid's Not-Your-Average-Coloring Book (2013)**
(The Art of Autism "Featured Favorite," Tectonic Theatre Award)

- ***The Asperkid's Game Plan: Purposeful Play, Extraordinary Minds.... Ordinary Stuff (2014)***
(AADigest "Top 10 Books to Read for Families," SEN Magazine "Best Creative Learning")
- ***Sisterhood of the Spectrum: An Asperger Chick's Guide to Life (2015)***
(The Mighty "Top Books for Girls," Spectrum Women "Breakthrough Read")

Memoir (July 2018)

- *Autism in Heels: The Untold Story of a Female Life on the Spectrum (2018)*
(BookRiot "Top 24 Feminist Books We Can't Wait for in 2018")

Contributions

- Foreword ***Dragonfly: A Daughter's Emergence from Autism: A Practical Guide for Parents*** - Lori Ashley Taylor (2018)
- Foreword ***Easy to Love but Hard to Live With: Real People, Invisible Disabilities, True Stories*** - ed. Lisa Davis (2014)
- Featured 'World's Top Aspie Mentors' contributor, ***Been There. Done That. Try This!: An Aspie's Guide to Life on Earth*** - ed. Tony Attwood ' (2014)

- Featured contributor, ***Autism and Learning Differences: An Active Learning, Teaching Toolkit*** - Michael P. MacMannon (author), Stephen Shore (foreword) (2015)
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Awards and Honors

- Guest Presenter, White House Summit on Americans with Disabilities (The President's Council on Fitness, Sports, & Nutrition), Washington, D.C., 2014
- Guest of Honor, Keynote, Her Royal Highness Countess of Wessex, National Autistic Society Professional Conference, United Kingdom
- Guest of Honor, Keynote, Her Royal Highness, Princess Marie of Denmark, Sikon Conference, Denmark, 2015
- 24 Amazing Feminist Books of 2018, Book Riot, 2018
- Outstanding Literary Work of the Year, Autism Society of America, 2014
- 50 Most Influential Women in North Carolina, 2014
- 25 Most Amazing Autistic Women, *Autistic Spectrum Digest*, August 2014
- Temple Grandin Award for Outstanding Global Contributions, Future Horizons

- Women Inspiring Strength & Hope Award, Make-A-Wish Foundation
 - GRASP Distinguished Spectrumite
 - AuKids Speaker of the Year
 - Leading Woman, The Kappa Alpha Theta Leading Women Award (2013)
 - Disney's Babble: Top 30 Autism Spectrum Blogs 2013
 - Disney's Babble: Top 30 Autism Facebook Fan Pages 2013
 - Disney's Babble: Top 30 Autism Websites
 - Godiva's Woman of the Year, Nominee
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Speaking Presence

Keynote Speaker domestically & internationally, including, but not limited to:

- National Autistic Society (UK)
- SHINE (Ireland)
- Sikon (Denmark)
- US Autism & Asperger's Association World Conference
- Autism Society of America - National

- The National Inclusion Project
 - North American Montessori Teachers' Association
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 - National Eating Disorder Association
 - Autism Society Chapters in 35 states
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Media

Jennifer's personal story has been featured by numerous international media outlets:

- Scientific American: *Autism - It's Different in Girls*
- Amy Poehler's Smart Girls at the Party/featured columnist:
Jennifer's "This Girl's Dance With Autism" series received the largest readership of any in the site's history
- *The Guardian* (London)
- *RTE* - Irish National Radio
- *The Washington Post*
- healthline.com "Ask the Experts"
- *Zoom Magazine* (cover)
- *The Chrissy B Show* (London)
- *Autism Asperger's Digest* (regular columnist)

- Australia's *Autism Asperger Association Network Magazine*
 - *Modern Parenting Magazine*
 - North American Montessori Teachers' Association Journal
 - AuKids Magazine
 - *SEN Magazine*
 - *Spectrum Woman Magazine*
 - Scholastic News (*Scholastic Publishers*)
 - headstuff.org
 - National Public Radio (NPR, multiple)
 - NBC
 - CBS
 - BBC International
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Associations

- National Advisory Board (Panel of Persons on the Spectrum), Autism Society of America
- Board of Directors, The Art of Autism
- Advisor: Yale University's Child Study Center (*Asperkids* books are foundational texts)

- Advisor: Global Montessori Alliance
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Education

- Brown University, BA (High Honors)
 - Columbia University Graduate School of Social Work
(High Honors)
 - Additional study at Queens University Graduate School of
Education
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Social Media

- www.Asperkids.com
 - www.Facebook.com/Asperkids
 - www.twitter.com/Asperkids
 - www.YouTube.com/Asperkids
 - www.Pinterest.com/Asperkids
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Links for Media Use

- Click for **high resolution photos** & media kit

Publicity Contacts

Click name to email:

- [Beth Vesel](#), CEO, Beth Vesel Literary Agency
- [Leslie Davis](#), Skyhorse Publishing
- [Katelynn Bartleson](#), Jessica Kingsley Publishers