

Book Title: Let Me Hear Your Voice: A Family's Triumph Over Autism

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Catherine Maurice (a pseudonym) is a mother whose second child began showing signs of social withdrawal. Her little Anne-Marie was connecting less verbally and was more interested in things rather than people. Her smiles were rare and she seemed so distant. Fear and anxiety overwhelmed the author as she imagined the consequences of having a daughter with some kind of disorder or illness.

This is an emotional story, yet one that provided factual information on what it is like for a family to face the shock of having a child with autism. In this inspiring autobiography, Catherine Maurice is able to bring the reader into the life of desperate parents as they deny, hope, and agonize over the disability of their child. When given contradictory advice from professional and friends, they are even more determined to find a cure. Maurice is able to successfully blend the psychological and medical terminology into her description of the parents' journey of discovery that their child is developing abnormally and has special needs. With the discovery, there is a dogged hope in this mother that drives her to bring her daughter with an "incurable" disability to recovery.

This book gives wonderful insight into what a family actually goes through as they face the struggles of having children with abnormal development. This would be a valuable read for students, families, and professionals to "see the disability" from the other side. Maurice is able to take the reader through the darkness of reality and then into the light of finding of recovery for her child. As she is introduced to several theories of care and recovery for her daughter, she teaches the reader about the human and the medical and psychological perspectives. She is gracious to those who failed her and applauds others like Dr. Ivar Lovaas, who gave her hope and a plan for recovery.

This personal look into raising a child with disabilities emphasizes the importance of the parental role in working with professionals to find solutions to the problem. Maurice's approach shows the value of selecting treatments that will be best for the child and the family. In this case, it meant adopting a less proven intervention. However, the behavioral treatment produced effective results in this case and resulted in positive outcomes for the child.