

## DBP Book Review

<b>Name of Book:</b> Let Me Hear Your Voice	<b>Author:</b> Catherine Maurice
<b>Publisher:</b> The Random House Publishing Group	<b>Date of Publication:</b> 1993
<b>Name of Reviewer:</b> Nicholas Pietris	<b>Date of Review:</b> 12/2006
<b>Intended Audience</b> (choose from Parents, Children, Professional, Other): Parents/professional	
<b>Purpose of the book:</b> To describe a family's experience through the diagnosis, treatment, and daily life of having a child diagnosed with autism.	
<b>Theoretical Basis:</b> As we make progress in understanding the organic 'cause' of autism, it is clear that there are many different schools of thought in the treatment of autism. This book describes the types of testing used to diagnose PDD disorders as well as several therapies used in treatment. In particular, the author discusses holding therapy, which gained popularity from a child psychiatrist, Dr. Martha Welch, and the book <i> Holding Time </i> . The other major therapy discussed is behavioral therapy. This therapy which gained popularity from many research centers but focuses on work done by Ivar Lovaas at UCLA. Since the author felt that not one single therapy/school of thought could be correct, she utilized a combination of therapies/activities of the above.	
<b>Strengths:</b> Catherine Maurice gives an excellent detailed account of her personal journey through the world of autism. She describes the difficulty in making a diagnosis after one or two visits with a professional, knowing that her child had some days where her function was better than others. It was also interesting to read about the caregivers' feelings when meeting with various professionals. Some she felt would give false hope and others would describe a disease with a terrible prognosis, where treatment was futile and the notion of a 'cure' was unthinkable. This book also takes you through a detailed account of day to day activities and the effects of different therapies. In particular, the author describes her daughter becoming 'robotic' in her responses to her environment which is sometimes a criticism of the behavioral approach. She describes her interactions with Dr. Welch and holding therapy and the cult-like following that holding therapy has, where other parents would become angry if she questioned the success of the therapy or even the theoretical basis of this therapy (Bettelheim's 'refrigerator mother theory').	

**Weaknesses:** Although the author does state several times that the curriculum she used is not a prescription for curing autism and every child is different, one can imagine some parents reading this and feeling overly optimistic regarding outcome. Regardless, I feel this is only a minor drawback and the overall picture of early diagnosis and intense multi-disciplinary therapy is clearly elucidated and revealing for parents new to the diagnosis.

**Recommendation of Reviewer** (please choose one and put "X" in box next to selection):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommend for all parents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommend for parents with specific problems/issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	May be useful to some parents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Would not recommend

**Additional Comments:**