“Thank you, Elaine and Diane! *Seven Keys to Unlock Autism* is extraordinarily rich in wisdom and honest, practical advice. Welcome this book into your home and you will be inspired. Miracles are never easy, but they are closer than you think.”
—Harvey Karp, MD, FAAP, creator of the DVD and book *The Happiest Toddler on the Block*

“Elaine Hall’s Miracle Project is a ‘miracle’—a miracle of ingenuity, human intimacy, and creativity. This magnificent work vividly demonstrates the joy and hope of discovering the creative and emotional capacities that exist in all children but especially in those children with autism and other special needs.”
—Stanley I. Greenspan, MD, author, *Engaging Autism* and *The Child with Special Needs*

“What a remarkable guide for educators and care providers of people with ASD! In *Seven Keys to Unlock Autism*, Elaine Hall and Diane Isaacs urge us to live the timeless advice shared by Gandhi: ‘You must be the change you want to see in the world.’ In highly readable, engaging, and practical ways, Elaine and Diane challenge professionals and care providers to deeply explore places that few approaches to autism dare to go: how can we change OUR attitudes, beliefs, and actions to profoundly impact the lives of people with ASD in the most positive ways. This book is a rare work that is creative, optimistic, and deeply reflective. It will prove to be transformational for those of us who share their lives with people with ASD.”
—Barry M. Prizant, PhD, CCC-SLP, director, Childhood Communication Services, adjunct professor, Center for the Study of Human Development, Brown University, and coauthor of *The SCERTS Model*
“Seven Keys to Unlock Autism summarizes what we know about kids on the spectrum and how best to help them learn and thrive, in a concise yet warm and empathetic way. This book will prove to be extremely valuable to all members of the teaching community—as well as a child’s lifelong teacher—his or her parent.”


“This unique approach seamlessly blends the depth of the human spirit with an understanding of the neuroscience of autism. The Seven Keys help teachers and families to embrace children with differences and, ultimately, develop the opportunities, interactions, and expressive inner life we desire for all children. A must-read.”

—CarolAnn Edscorn, MS, parent, advocate, educator

“Seven Keys to Unlock Autism is an excellent resource for any professional working with students with autism. For new teachers it is a step-by-step guide that will help minimize anxiety and provide the framework for success in the classroom. For those of us in the field for a while, it is a refreshing new perspective that excites, motivates, and challenges us to recognize and develop these special individuals’ strengths by increasing awareness of ourselves and the roadblocks we may unknowingly impose. Thankfully, Elaine and Diane help us know when to step out of the way and how to recognize, coach, and support these individuals’ strengths.”

—Debra Gordon, MS, CCC-SLP

“As children are diagnosed on the autism spectrum at ever increasing rates, Seven Keys to Unlock Autism is a must-read for mental health clinicians, educators, and others working with families. Anyone working with families touched by autism would be well equipped with the compassionate and commonsense approaches offered in this book.”

—Ilene Weingarten, MFT
Seven Keys to Unlock Autism
Seven Keys to Unlock Autism

Making Miracles in the Classroom

Elaine Hall and Diane Isaacs

Foreword by Stephen M. Shore

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To our inspiring messengers, Wyatt and Neal,
who make miracles out of autism . . . every day
A special spotlight shines on Marjorie McAneny for championing the seven keys when it was just a contender. Thank you to Irene Webb for her diligent and caring leadership and Tracy Columbus for her boundless energy and dedication to our mission.

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Diane is in loving gratitude of her two sons, Jackson and Wyatt, who teach her by example to live in the now, transcend all limits, and be a dedicated ambassador of truth.

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To all of us who have hit walls, found impassable obstacles, wanted to give up . . . but didn’t. For you.
About the Authors

Elaine Hall ("CoachE!") was a top Hollywood children’s acting coach working for Disney Studios, Universal Pictures, Nickelodeon, and others, including the film Akeelah and the Bee. Elaine’s life changed dramatically after her son, Neal, adopted from a Russian orphanage, was diagnosed with autism. When traditional therapies did not work for him, she rallied actors and other creative people to join his world, and Neal slowly emerged from his isolation. She then developed the Seven Keys training program and used these methods to create The Miracle Project, a world-renowned theater and film program for children of all abilities, profiled in the Emmy Award-winning HBO documentary Autism: The Musical.

Elaine has appeared on CNN, CBS News, Oprah Radio, and has been featured in the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, the Boston Globe, and the Wall Street Journal. She has received awards from Holly Robinson Peete’s HollyRod Foundation, Autism Speaks, Autism Society of Los Angeles, Senator Fran Pavley, the mayor of Los Angeles, Areva Martin’s Special Needs Network, Etta Israel, and many more. Her innovative approach to working with children with autism has created a “movement,” with people requesting The Miracle Project all over the world. Workshops have been held across the United States and Canada and in India and Africa. The Miracle Project now has ongoing classes in New York City, West Los Angeles, and at The Help Group in Los Angeles.

Elaine is a keynote speaker and workshop leader at conferences throughout the United States and Canada. Her first book, Now I See the Moon: A Mother, a Son, a Miracle, was chosen by the United Nations, where she spoke to launch World Autism Awareness Month 2011. Elaine and producer Diane Isaacs created the CD