

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: Lisa Trank
One Purpose PR & Communications
ltrank@onepurposepr.com
303-579-4522



Autism and Computers:
Maximizing Independence Through Technology
Breakthrough Computer-Based Intervention Book
for Families and Professionals

June 1, 2009 (Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, FL) – Valerie Herskowitz, M.A., CCC-SLP, one of the world’s foremost speech pathology expert and speaker on the subject of computer-based intervention with special needs individuals, has released *Autism and Computers: Maximizing Independence Through Technology*, a comprehensive guide on how technology can provide a key element in successful and independent living with developmental disabilities, as well as a powerful way to teach many skills to individuals with autism.

Autism and Computers is written in clear and accessible language designed to help families of individuals on the autism spectrum, as well as professionals who work with this population. *Autism and Computers* explores the following key points:

- Starting technology training and other technological applications early is critical to successful independence
- How to set up a simple and cost-effective home and professionally-based Computer-Based Intervention (CBI) program
- Herskowitz’s technological invention has the potential to increase many abilities including language and social skills
- Children with autism have the ability to gain significant independence in a short amount of time by using Herskowitz’s technological application
- CBI enhances skill training through developing a variety of different areas
- Alternative and augmentative communication devices

- Technology can translate to productivity in a job or personal setting during the adult years
- Individuals with autism and other developmental challenges are inherently drawn to Computer-Based Intervention

About Valerie Herskowitz:

When her youngest son, Blake, was diagnosed with autism in 1993, Herskowitz combined her professional journey as a therapist and as a parent of an autistic child. Ms. Herskowitz brings unique insights to help families cope with problems they face in parenting a child with autism. *Autism and Computers* is the culmination this journey and of a three decade dedication to providing support, education and advocacy for families with special needs and the professionals who support them.

Ms. Herskowitz is also the founder of the Dimensions Therapy Center, which provides special private therapy services and hosts special events in and around South Florida for families with special needs. Herskowitz's computer-based intervention for families reaches a national scale by establishing a "global autism support village" through podcasts, webcasts and other online and interactive tools.

Ms. Herskowitz's career as a speech pathologist spans over 30 years. A recipient of the Stevie Lifetime Achievement Award for her work with autistic and special needs children, Herskowitz has also been honored for starting two innovative community programs, Mothers of Special Needs Individuals (MOSI) and the Family Club. Herskowitz is also president of the National Autism Registry and serves on the advisory board of United States Autism and Asperger Association. She is a contributing writer for a number of national publications on the subject of autism, and has presented at autism conferences around the world. In addition, Ms. Herskowitz is available for in-person consultation for families in the South Florida area. Through the phone and Internet, Ms. Herskowitz can assist other families worldwide.

Autism and Computers: Maximizing Independence Through Technology is available through www.valerieherskowitz.com.

##