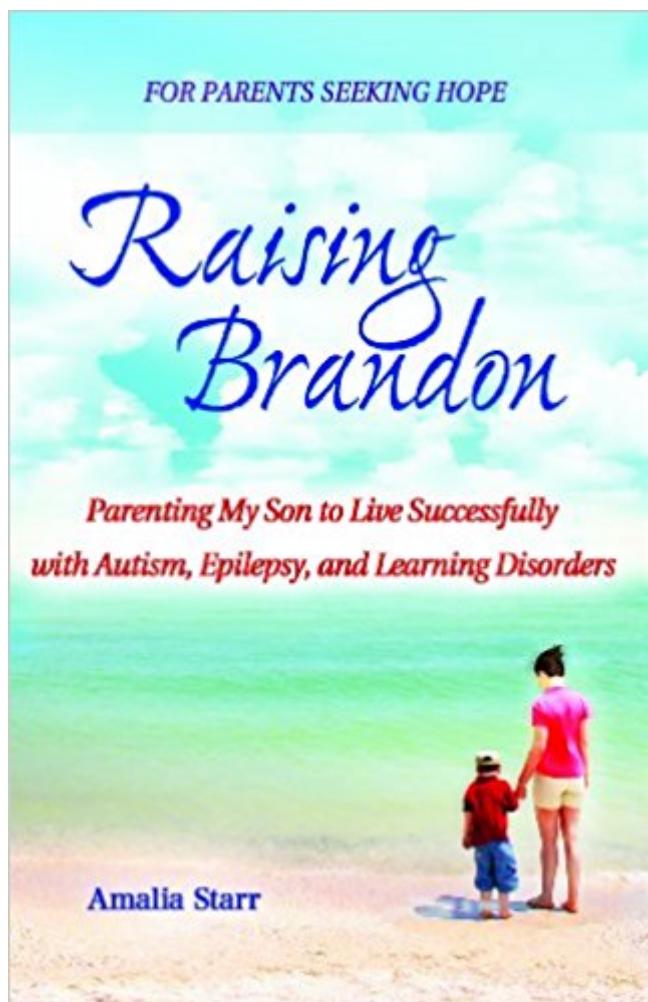


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# Raising Brandon: Parenting My Son To Live Successfully With Autism, Epilepsy, And Learning Disorders



## Synopsis

Raising Brandon is quickly becoming a manual for parents who have children and adults with autism and special needs. The book informs, educates, and offers hope to a generation of parents struggling for answers. Whether you are just starting out with a newborn and you sense something is wrong, or you have an adult child with autism or special needs and you do not know what to do, Raising Brandon will guide you to the answers you have been looking for. Raising Brandon is filled with practical strategies, answers and solutions that will make life easier for you and your children, no matter their age or stage of development. It offers help, hope and inspiration to parents who do not know where to turn. You will be provided with the proven tools to help you work with your children's limitations. Rather than just thinking about what to do, now you can make positive results a reality. Raising Brandon follows Starr's life from the birth of her younger son, Brandon, through his diagnosis of autism, untreatable epilepsy, and severe learning disorders. Her goal was to help him live his dream and become an independent adult. "When most people hear the word autism, they associate it with a child," says Starr. But like Brandon, now thirty-six, our children grow up, and we want them to not only survive in the world, but to live well. As parents, we have much to learn about ourselves in the process. Intended for parents of special needs children as well as care providers, the book's chapters tell a particular story and reveal what the author has discovered. Where the book really shines is where Starr describes in detail how she created innovative ways to empower Brandon when professionals said independence would be impossible for him to achieve. She had to dig deep within, to change and empower herself first in order to help her son succeed. Raising Brandon not only guides parents on how to cope but also how to become a more conscious and evolved human being in the process. "Being conscious is the secret to success," says Starr. "I would have never thought that by helping my son succeed that I would be helping myself at the same time." Brandon has achieved what the professionals believed to be impossible. He has been living in his own apartment, enjoying his independence, for the past twelve years. Although living alone may not be an option for every child, helping one's child to live the best life possible is every parent's dream. "There are thousands of children being diagnosed with autism every day, and those children will grow up. We need to have the resources in place to help them, and as parents, we need to know what to do," adds Starr. There are areas in the book where Starr addresses the common pitfalls, such as shame, secrecy, and denial. She describes how damaging these can be personally, as well as on the marriage. Further, she provides proven tools for releasing yourself and breaking free to create a better life for you and your family. Another message close to Starr's heart is made loud and clear throughout the book. Although her son was diagnosed with epilepsy and

learning disorders at the age of nine, it was not until he turned thirty-two that Starr discovered Brandon had a form of autism called Asperger Syndrome. She stresses how early intervention is key, but Starr knows firsthand and shares, "It is never too late to get help for your children. There is Hope. Brandon is living proof that anything is possible!"

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

At once instructive and inspiring, *Raising Brandon* is an unforgettable memoir that glows with practical wisdom and undauntable optimism. It is a timeless gift from a courageous mother who despite the longest of odds has given her son a life that abounds with independence and fulfillment.

--Steve Fjeldsted, Library Director This story is an inspiration for all kids with disabilities and all families that face such a challenge. I hope every parent has the guts and perseverance that Brandon and his mom have. Reading their story keeps your faith alive. --Bennett Ross, Executive Director, Frostig Center, For Children with Learning Disabilities

What is the parent of a special needs child to do? Ask a mother who raised one. Amalia Starr is a motivational speaker and family consultant who specializes in supporting parents of children with autism and special needs through workshops, seminars, and private sessions. Utilizing a background in sales and marketing, she was the host of a cable show dedicated to parents who had children with special needs. Her results-based approach focuses on empowering both parents and their children to reach their full potential. As a mother, she has devoted more than thirty-six years

developing the skills to empower her son, Brandon. He has been living on his own successfully, enjoying his independence, for more than twelve years. With Amalia Starr's thirty-six years of experience in raising her son with special needs she shares answers, solutions, practical strategies, and most of all HOPE. Starr is on a mission to guide, support and empower parents who have children with autism and special needs through presentations, workshops, training sessions, and her book, *Raising Brandon*. She is currently writing a Workbook to accompany *Raising Brandon*.

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