

“Laura Marshak and Fran Prezant have written a book that is so much needed by parents facing the challenge of raising a child with special needs... Many parents will recognize themselves in these pages and find comfort in knowing they are not alone.”

*Anne Ford, Chairman Emeritus,
National Center for Learning Disabilities*



“This book recognizes the overwhelming stresses affecting family dynamics that can cause or widen existing cracks in marriages of parents of children with disabilities. The authors share candid anecdotes from parents who have “lived it” and offer a wealth of sensitive and realistic suggestions to make a marriage work.”

Virginia W. Stern, Director, Project on Science, Technology and Disability, American Association for the Advancement of Science

“The essence of Marshak and Prezant’s work is a genuine concern for the increasing relationship satisfaction in families with children having special needs. Their simple, direct and inspirational language is apt for distraught parents, and so is the engaging format.”

Anisha Shah, PsycCritiques

“Finding a book about the impact of a special-needs child on marriage and family life that doesn’t make you want to hide in a dark room with a box of chocolates and a bottle of wine and cry your eyes out is something of a challenge... Without minimizing the difficulties of nurturing a marriage while nurturing a highly needy child, the authors point out ways to sustain and strengthen the ties of love, not just of duty, that bind spouses together. It’s an encouraging, even inspirational read.... Full of practical advice for couples, whether they are functioning well or falling apart.”

Terri Mauro, author and host, About.com Parenting Special Needs Guide



Speaking Engagements & and Workshops

by authors **Laura Marshak and Fran Prezant**

practical advice for parents and professionals

Presentations and Workshops...

Laura Marshak and Fran Prezant have presented nationally and internationally to groups concerned with raising children with disabilities including keynote addresses, weekend marriage and parent retreats as well as support group conferences. Presentations have ranged from hour-long talks to a 10-hour weekend program depending upon group requests. All talks are realistic (and often funny) while focused on practical ways that marriages or long-term relationships can be strengthened while still being very busy raising children with intensified needs.

about the book...

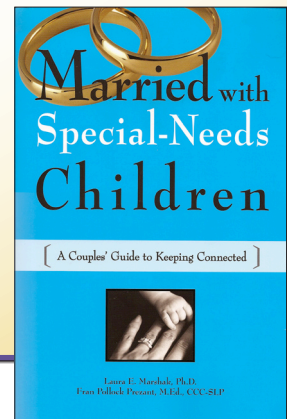
All children impact a marriage. This is even more the case when it comes to raising children with disabilities. Overall, the effects on a marriage can be positive or negative. Although it is true that the divorce rate is comparatively higher when a couple raises children with disabilities, a strained relationship is not inevitable and many couples find ways to make their marriages thrive. This book was written for this reason. It provides a candid and realistic look at the ways having children with disabilities or health conditions can impact a couple's relationship as well as numerous, helpful approaches to handling these issues.

The content for this book is drawn from the combined professional expertise of the authors as well as input from hundreds of couples who offer insight into their challenges, the unique solutions they discovered and what they wish they had done differently. In addition to sharing their advice, these parents demonstrate that, despite difficulties, there is a way to have a good relationship when faced with great child-rearing demands. The authors also discuss many of the common pitfalls that can weaken a marriage while raising children with disabilities and health problems as well as proactive strategies. Although written with parents in mind, professionals in social service, medical, therapeutic and educational settings who interact with families with children who have disabilities will also find this book helpful. This book can be purchased from Woodbine House, Barnes & Noble and online from Amazon.com.

Topics Include:

- practical ways to protect your marriage
- encouraging positive change
- handling grief in a manner that also permits joy
- ways to avoid common pitfalls that more commonly impact couples raising children with special-needs
- handling heartfelt conflicts over differences in expectations and raising children with disabilities and or illnesses
- protecting sex and romance when children have disorders that result in parental exhaustions
- effective strategies for improving communication and problem solving
- coping skills that are easy to use and help sustain individuals and marriages
- reducing resentment and becoming a stronger team

“Married with Special-Needs Children”
[A Couples' Guide to Keeping Connected]
is the winner of the
2007 *iParenting*
Media Excellent
Products Award and
honored as one of
the *Ten Best Books*
for Parents (2007)
by *Exceptional*
Parents Magazine.



Contact the authors for presentation and workshop arrangements.



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Laura Marshak, Ph.D. has more than 20 years experience in disability issues. She is a professor of counseling at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a founding partner and psychologist at North Hills Psychological Services where she works with parents of children with disabilities.



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Web: www.marriedwithspecialchildren.com • Fran Prezant, M.Ed., CCC-SLP is a disability consultant, speaker/author who served as Senior Vice President and Director of Research and Evaluation at Abilities! in New York, and former Director of the Parent Information Project at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Trained as a speech and language pathologist, she has been a parent trainer, program director, university instructor, researcher and author in the disability arena.

www.marriedwithspecialchildren.com