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**Plaintext**  
**compact**

**Is my child  
autistic?**

Encouraging answers  
to a scary question.

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## I. PREFACE

It is the experience of one year "Solidar Hotel Goldener Stern" with the offer "Holidays for families with (autistic) children", which led me to write this book.

Already in the first year several hundred children were our guests, of which about 50 children, adolescents and adults with an autism diagnosis.

Among the other children, however, were some who showed clear signs of autism - and in which some parents had a "suspicion", others not.

The "abnormalities" of the children were so small that they would not be enough for a diagnosis, but still so that the parents have at least partially considered possible causes.

Be it a delayed language development, little interest in other people or children, problems with motor skills, emotion regulation ...

I would have liked to have told many parents that, in my opinion, their child is an autistic person and therefore they should take this into consideration as the child develops. And also educators, for example, in kindergarten and daycare, are increasingly faced with the question of whether one of the children may be autistic.

How to recognize this and what to consider then?

The past few decades, however, have given a false picture of autism - of autism as a disease.

A disease that was also presented as an unalterable, non-treatable fate and unfortunately is still. That's why parents alone fear the word "autism" as threatening and frightening.

But autism is not a disease!