

Laurie Stephens, Ph.D.

Dr. Laurie Stephens is Director of The Autism Spectrum Disorders Programs at The Help Group and the Director of The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder, an outpatient program that provides diagnostic and therapeutic services for children. Dr. Stephens oversees the Young Learners Therapeutic Preschool and has been instrumental in creating integrated and comprehensive education and social skills programs within the Help Group's specialized day schools for children in the autistic spectrum. She established a summer camp program for gifted children with Asperger's Disorder. Dr. Stephens is also the Editor of The Help Group's Professional Newsletter, the HelpLine.

Before joining The Help Group, Dr. Stephens was a Clinical Instructor of Psychiatry, the Director of Child Services and an attending psychologist at the SUNY Stony Brook. Dr. Stephens received her BA in Experimental Psychology from the UC San Diego, and her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from SUNY Stony Brook.

She has worked in the field of autism since 1982, focusing on the early diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders, designing and implementing educational, behavioral and social programming for children of all ages, and as a consultant to numerous school districts on the East Coast. Dr. Stephens has published and lectured extensively, and has conducted research into the differential diagnosis of high-functioning autism and Asperger's Disorder and researching the most effective social skills curricula for this population. She co-founded the Early Diagnosis Center for Autism in Suffolk County, New York.