



## **AUTHOR GUIDELINES**

Thank you very much for considering Future Horizons as your publisher or distributor.

Future Horizons relies on manuscripts from authors like you in order to offer high-quality books and products that serve the autism community. We provide parents, professionals, and individuals on the spectrum with creative, practical information that will help them focus on the ability rather than the disability in autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and other related disorders. Our goal is to publish materials that will improve the lives of those affected by autism, both immediately and in the future.

With this goal in mind, we respectfully request that authors do not submit proposals that are not related to the subject of autism and other pervasive developmental disorders.

Although the majority of manuscripts we receive are either parent memoirs or children's books, regretfully, we publish very few books in these categories. The market has become saturated with similar books, and though each story is inherently valuable with its own unique elements, we simply cannot meet the expense of publishing them all. The same goes for fiction, poetry, and similar work. We do not want to discourage you from submitting your work; we just want to be up front about our publishing intentions and editorial needs.

We encourage authors to explore our website ([www.FHautism.com](http://www.FHautism.com)) before submitting a proposal in order to get a clear idea of the kinds of books we publish, and to make sure that your work won't compete with any of our existing titles. The more you know about our products and the other autism resources out there, the better prepared you are to offer work that is fresh and innovative. Take into consideration the marketing possibilities for your product as well. Sometimes it's hard to think of your creative work that way, but it is important to remember that every time we accept a new manuscript, we are investing in that work. A great deal of time of energy goes into each of our publications, so we strive to produce books that introduce new-and-noteworthy information, ideas, and perspectives, and are clearly marketable.

In order to properly evaluate a proposal, we need to receive certain essential information. Please include a cover letter, author resume, book synopsis, chapter-by-chapter outline, and at least three consecutive chapters. We do not accept hand-written manuscripts, nor do we accept submissions via email. We encourage authors to provide any relevant artwork, tables, charts or graphs that will enhance the quality of your submission.

Please refer to the following guidelines for more information on our expectations.

## **COVER LETTER**

Be sure to include the following:

- Your name
- Your current mailing address
- The titles, publishers, and publication dates of any previous books, journal articles or presentations you have authored or co-authored
- A suggested book title
- The estimated length of the book
- Proposed artwork, tables, charts and/or figures
- A description of any special features of the book. For example, each chapter contains suggested readings or a “Coping Strategies” section.
- Your assessment of the book’s main selling points
- A description of the book’s unique qualities (how it differs from other books in its category and why there is a need for a book of its nature)
- A guesstimate as to which demographics your book targets (Who would purchase your book? Parents, special education teachers, mainstream educators, therapists, persons on the spectrum, etc.?)

## **AUTHOR RESUME**

Be sure to include the following:

- Educational credentials, including degrees earned, awards, research projects, and other information that would lend to your credibility and expertise on your topic.
- Positions held within the autism community and a short description of your duties (outreach centers, schools, medical practices, volunteer organizations)
- Speaking experience (if any), including a list of specific engagements
- General career timeline
- Interests and activities

## **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

Please include a typed summary of your book in less than 750 words.

## **CHAPTER OUTLINE**

This is a brief summary of each chapter. Please limit summaries to 500 words per chapter.

## **THREE CONSECUTIVE CHAPTERS**

Send three chapters that express your originality, subject matter, and writing quality. You may send us a complete manuscript, but we ask that you recommend three chapters.

For short children’s books, please send the whole book. Since children’s books are especially dependent on graphics, we request that the author provide illustrations or plans for the illustrations.

Please keep a copy of your manuscript for your records, as we do not return submissions.  
All materials should be sent to:

Future Horizons  
C/O Kelly Gilpin  
721 W Abram St  
Arlington, TX 76013

We know that you have spent months and possibly years crafting your work, and we will review it thoroughly. Each submission receives the individual attention it intrinsically deserves.

Because of this, please be aware that we receive many proposals per day and it is not unusual for the process to take several months. We appreciate your patience in this lengthy process. We notify all authors upon receipt of material and again once a decision is made, so there is no need to follow up.

Thanks again for taking the time to learn more about Future Horizons and the process that has made us the world leader in autism books, DVDs, and conferences. We look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Kelly Gilpin  
Editorial Director  
Future Horizons, Inc.