



### **Endorsements for Iris the Dragon**

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“The stigma associated with children and youth who have developmental disabilities can be devastating to their sense of inclusion in the community and their self-esteem. What is so disturbing is how easy it would be to remove that stigma if we had the appropriate tools and methods. One of the key tools must be education of typically developing children and their understanding of the trials and tribulations experienced by those with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

I read, “I Can Fix It a tale from the Iris the Dragon Series,” with delight and knew immediately that this book could go a long way to removing that stigma. It recounts the story of a child with Asperger Syndrome, the teasing and bullying she experiences from her classmates, and the resilience she displays in overcoming those obstacles. The dialogue is charming, the illustrations magnificent, and the message uplifting. I hope to see copies of “I Can Fix It a tale from the Iris the Dragon Series” in all classrooms across Canada.”

Dr. Peter Szatmari has worked in the field of autism and pervasive developmental disorders (PDD) for more than 25 years. Dr Szatmari is Professor and Head, Division of Child Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University, where he holds the Chedoke Health Chair in Child Psychiatry. He is Director of the Offord Centre of Child Studies. He is a founding member of the Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network (CAIRN) a national network of parents, clinicians, policy makers and scientists dedicated to launching a research agenda in early intervention in autism. He is currently part of an international collaboration investigating the genetics of autism, a long-term study of autistic pre-schoolers that will try to identify factors that contribute to positive outcomes for these children and a study of infant siblings of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). He consults regularly to government agencies in Canada, the U.S. and internationally on research and on treatment services for children with ASD. He was co-editor of the journal Evidence Based Mental Health, has published more than 200 journal articles and presentations on autism and is the author of the book iA Mind Apart; Understanding Autism and Asperger Syndrome.

#### **Dr. Peter Szatmari**

“Gayle Grass dedicates her storytelling talent to educate children, and their parents, about mental health and mental health problems, associated adaptive ways of coping and identification of early warning signs. I Can Fix It a tale from the Iris the Dragon Series is the 4th book in the wonderful Iris the Dragon series. Using her creative bent, augmented by exceptional illustrations, Gayle has focused on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). While dealing with mental health literary from this perspective, she also very ably addresses the substantial matter of the stigma associated with mental health problems. Congratulations on your continued excellence Gayle!”

#### **Simon Davidson,**

M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.P.(C) Professor of Psychiatry and Paediatrics,  
Chairman, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry,  
University of Ottawa; Chief Strategic Planning Executive,  
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