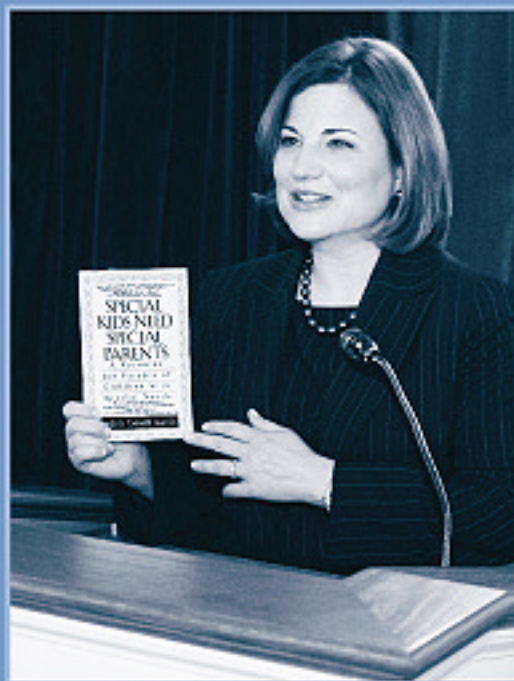




Understanding the Psychosocial Dynamics of Special Needs:

Practical Strategies and Unique Insights



A **must** for:

- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Health Care Professionals
- ▶ Educators
- ▶ Clergy
- ▶ Caregivers
- ▶ Students

Nationally recognized speaker and group facilitator Judith Loeff Lavin, author of *Special Kids Need Special Parents*

Topic Idea(s)

Parents and Family

- | *Moving Forward When You Lose a Dream*
- | *Insights into Family Dynamics*
- | *Advocating for Your Kids*
- | *Creating Meaning in Your Life*

Professionals and Students

- | *Strategies for Teaming Up with Parents*
- | *Communicating with Families*
- | *Insights for Enhancing Quality Care*
- | *Lessons Learned from Special Families*

Judith Loseff Lavin



Author, educator, journalist, nationally recognized speaker and group facilitator

Judith Loseff Lavin, author of *Special Kids Need Special Parents*, is a nationally recognized speaker and group facilitator, as well as an educator and journalist who is best known for her practical strategies that help members of her audience cope with the daily challenges of life, marriage, family and parenting. The mother of a daughter with special needs, she has faced numerous emotional and practical challenges that have taught her how to manage and find meaning in the daily problems and frustrations that go hand in hand with these challenges. Struggle and pain can bring meaning to life, she says. Life is about learning and meaning – not about ease or perfection. Often, our most painful experiences are our gifts in the long run.

A dynamic, insightful and sought-after motivational speaker, she has addressed thousands of parents, educators, health care professionals, caregivers, social workers and clergy in a wide range of settings, including convention centers, lecture halls, sanctuaries, book fairs and bookstores.

Regularly quoted as a parenting and relationship expert, she has appeared on such national broadcasts as the Today show, the CBS Radio Networks and PBS-TV and has been featured in such major publications as the Chicago Tribune, Newsday and Washington Parent.

Her Recent Speaking Engagements

Hospitals

- | Miami Children's Hospital, Miami, FL
- | Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL
- | Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH
- | New York University Medical Center and Forward Face, New York, NY

School Districts

- | North Shore School District 112, Highland Park, IL
- | Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSD) Association of Parents and Staff, Highland Park, IL

Agency & Association Conferences & Programs

- | State of Maine Department of Health Family Conference, Augusta, ME
- | American Cleft Palate Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN
- | Sturge Weber Foundation Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- | Chromosome 18 Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, UT
- | Jewish Federation Continuing Education Program, Chicago, IL
- | International Rett Syndrome Association 18th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- | The Hydrocephalus Association 7th National Conference, Chicago, IL

Available to Speak



Judith Loseff Lavin shares the wisdom, insights and practical tips she has gained as the mother of a child with special needs as well as a teacher, journalist and author to help parents and professionals deal with children who have extra issues. Her advice assists husbands and wives, parents, grandparents and professionals as we all try to break through communication barriers, facilitate teamwork and manage the daily challenges of life, marriage, family and parenting.

Expert Praise

From Health Care Professionals:

In my 23 years as a pediatric nurse, Judy is the person who has given me the greatest insight as to how to provide the best care to patients and families.

Patricia Chibbaro, NP, pediatric nurse practitioner, Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery, New York University Medical Center, New York, NY

The program Judy provided was informative, relevant and shared in an engaging, humorous and sensitive manner.

Regina Stefanik, RNC, MEd, MS, assistant director, Patient Care Services Education, Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH

Judy's wealth of experience – as the mother of a child with special needs – was helpful to EVERY parent in the room, not just the parents of children with extra challenges.

Betsy N. Finkert, former chairman, Medical Research Institute Council, Children's Memorial Medical Center, Chicago, IL

From Social Service Professionals:

... insightful, understanding and very down to earth. Judy is a very wise woman. Parents said her speech was exactly what they needed, when they needed it and her appearance was responsible for drawing our large attendance.

Lisa Brown, coordinator, State of Maine Department of Health Family Conference, Augusta, ME

Judy Lavin has a highly informative, deeply personal presentation that is helpful both to families who have children with disabilities as well as individuals and professionals seeking to better understand the challenges that those with special needs face.

Brian Leverenz, community services administrator, New Trier Township, Cook County, IL

From Parents:

Judy Lavin shares her story with warmth, compassion and a touch of humor. Her presentation inspires and motivates parents to grow from the challenges that they face in life. Judy's delivery empowers parents to reframe their feelings, to not only develop healthy coping skills, but also to advocate for themselves and their children, in order to maximize their child's potential. Judy received outstanding feedback from parents who attended our 18th Annual Conference in May, 2002.

Diane Ross, chairman of the board, International Rett Syndrome Association, Clinton, MD

Judy is really us! We're all like her, coming through the trenches, stronger because of our struggles.... Judy helps each person...find their own strength and know they can do it.

Michelle Rosenson, Twinsight, a mother of twins support group, Northbrook, IL

From Educators:

Judy was genuine, humorous and informative. Staff gained heartfelt insight from Judy's personal perspective and ongoing experiences. Judy's presentation was a reality check for those who work, teach and care for students with special needs. What did we learn? Special kids need special parents, as well as special teachers.

Guy Schumacher, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, North Shore School District 112, Highland Park, IL

About her Parenting Book...

For seven years, Judith Lovett Lavin interviewed experts around the U.S., including doctors, health care professionals, therapists, educators, celebrities, parents, special children and their families to gain their wisdom and advice. She combined these interviews with her own insights and practical coping strategies and rolled them into her compassionate resource guide, *Special Kids Need Special Parents*. Judith wrote the 307-page resource book, which may be the only resource guide of its kind, for the more than 20 million U.S. families (nearly one in three) who have children with special needs and the tens of millions of professionals who work with them.



Expert Reviews

R

Publishers Weekly

...Combining compassion and considerable firsthand research, Lavin has prepared a positive and comprehensive guide to the myriad issues surrounding a special needs child and a lengthy list of helpful organizations and services.

Amazon.com

...Lavin writes from a point of view many parents are sure to appreciate...and Lavin knows exactly what she's talking about...

E

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, author, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

A wise and helpful book written by someone who knows what needs to be said and has earned the right to say it.

V

Marshall Duke, Ph.D., and Stephen Nowicki Jr., Ph.D., Candler Professors of Psychology, Emory University, and authors, *Helping the Child Who Doesn't Fit In*

...an excellent resource book that should be required in the homes of parents who have children with special needs and in the offices of professionals who work with them.

I

Francis Cardinal George, Archdiocese of Chicago

Parents of special children will be grateful for this book. It will help them with the day-to-day joys and challenges they face. It offers them hope and shares with them wisdom gained from personal experience and a love nurtured through great generosity.

E

Stacy Keach, actor and honorary chairman, American Cleft Palate Foundation

Judy Lavin shows all of us the way to hope and happiness. I know this book will be a positive guiding influence for special kids and parents for many generations to come.

E

Timothy P. Shriver, Ph.D., president and CEO, Special Olympics, Inc.

"Special Kids Need Special Parents" is a touching, spiritual and very personal account of what it means to parent a child with special needs. The book is a helpful "how-to" guide for parents on a broad array of topics.

W

Charles Berde, M.D., Ph.D., director, Pain Treatment Services, Children's Hospital of Boston, professor of Anesthesia and Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

... a valuable compass and road map for families of children with special needs...practical recommendations, personal experience and a balanced viewpoint for parents faced with bewildering and often contradictory advice from clinicians and educators. I highly recommend this book.

S

Adele Faber, co-author, *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk*

Parents will be grateful for this honest, compassionate guide...provides comfort, insight and a wealth of useful information.

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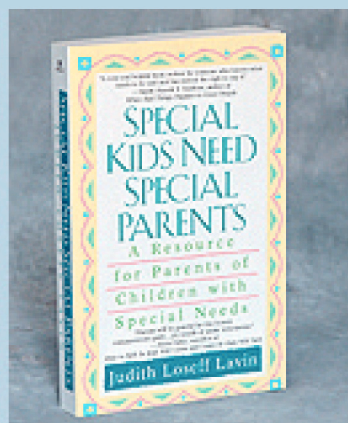
Schedule Judith Loseff Lavin to Address Your Group

To discuss speaking engagements and fees, please contact:

Judy Loseff Lavin
e-mail: judy@parentingchallenges.com

2

To Order Her Book, *Special Kids Need Special Parents*



Please call your local bookstore to order single copies
or

Order online at: www.parentingchallenges.com

For quantity discounts, please contact:

Director Special Markets, Penguin Putnam Inc.
(212) 366-2000 (Phone)
(212) 366-2679 (Fax)