

TITLE: Temple Did It and I Can, Too!: Seven Simple Life Rules

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By now, everyone acquainted with people on the autism spectrum probably know who Temple Grandin is, but it is hard for a child with ASD to know how he or she can be as successful as Temple has been. Jennifer Gilpin Yacio has written a wonderful book for younger children that is an easy to read and beautifully illustrated roadmap on how to get started on the road to success.

These rules include going with one's passions, be it cattle, writing multimedia blogs or studying budgie genetics. Kids learn that they must work hard and stay disciplined and committed to what one is doing. You must being oneself, but try to fit in by wearing appropriate clothing and speaking and behaving in a socially acceptable manner. The rules stress living life to the fullest; joining clubs, engaging in hobbies, developing one's talent and being willing to not be perfect as perfection isn't possible. Never, ever stop learning!

Each of these rules is illustrated in gorgeous watercolor by Lynda Farrington Wilson and at the end there's a section where the reader fills in his or her answers on how one would use each of these rules to forge ahead and achieve goals. This is a wonderful, easy to understand, step by step guide for children with ASD who feel down and beleaguered by a school system and a society that often underestimates ability and goes to the lowest common denominator out of ignorance and fear. I loved the upbeat positive message of this little gem and the combination of this positive message and beautiful illustrations is a winning one. This is not the newest kid on the block as it was published in 2015, but it is recent enough to be relevant for a long time as the information is timeless and will never go out of date. This should be in every single school and library all over the world!!!