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# About the Author and Contributors

**Patricia A. Prelock** received her doctorate in speech–language pathology with a concentration in cognitive psychology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1983. Dr. Prelock is professor and chair in the Department of Communication Sciences at the University of Vermont (UVM). She holds the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech–Language Pathology and is a board-recognized child language specialist. Dr. Prelock was the project director for the Vermont Rural Autism Project (VT-RAP), a federally funded project designed to prepare speech–language pathologists, special educators, and related service providers to better serve children with autism spectrum disorders and their families (1997–2001). As part of the institutionalization of VT-RAP she cosponsors an annual week-long Summer Institute in Autism with the Autism Society of Vermont and teaches an assessment and intervention course in autism at UVM. Currently, she is training director for the Vermont Interdisciplinary Leadership Education for Health Professionals Program (a federal project funded through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau). She is conducting intervention research on the use of social stories and peer play with children on the autism spectrum.

## Contributors

**Jean E. Beatson** is a registered nurse and a research assistant professor in the Department of Nursing at the University of Vermont in Burlington. She received her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Vermont. Dr. Beatson is the clinical director and associate training director for the Vermont Interdisciplinary Leadership Education for Health Professionals (VT-ILEHP) Program.

**Stephen H. Contompasis** is a developmental pediatrician and an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont in Burlington. He graduated from Tufts Medical School and did his residency training at Dartmouth–Hitchcock Medical Center and his postresidency training at Children’s Hospital in Boston. He is board-certified in pediatrics, developmental and behavioral pediatrics, and neurodevelopmental disabilities. Dr. Contompasis is the program director for the VT-ILEHP Program.

**Ruth Dennis** is a certified occupational therapist and a research assistant professor in the Department of Education at the University of Vermont in

Burlington. She received her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Vermont. Dr. Dennis is also a member of the State of Vermont Interdisciplinary Team (VT-I Team) through the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion and a core faculty member for the VT-ILEHP Program.

**Amy Ducker** is a developmental psychologist at the Baird Center for Children and Families in Burlington, Vermont. She received her doctorate in developmental psychology from the University of Vermont. Dr. Ducker is the clinical director for the Autism Spectrum Program at the Baird Center.

**Susan Edelman** is a certified physical therapist and a research assistant professor in the Department of Education at the University of Vermont in Burlington. She received her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Vermont. She is also coordinator of the VT-I Team and the Deaf/Blind Project through the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion at the University of Vermont.

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