

# The Power of Passion: Navigating Autistic Perspectives and Leveraging Special Interests for Everyday Enrichment Resource List

Naomi Hazlett, BSc., MScOT, erg., February 2024

## Faces of Special Interests

- Hanna Gadsby: [Autism spectrum diagnosis helped comic Hanna Gadsby 'be kinder' to herself.](#)
- Pokedream: [Interview with Satoshi Tajiri.](#)
- Uplifting Voices: [Steven Wiltshire interview.](#)

## Media Links

- [D&D and Neurodiversity: Tips and Tales from the Table | D&D Beyond](#) (YouTube)
  - Amy Dallen is joined by Marieke Nijkamp (Critical Role: Kith & Kin), Daniel Kwan & Naomi Hazlett for a chat about their work & what Dungeons and Dragons has to offer neurodivergent players.
- [Level Up Gaming](#) is a Toronto-based organization that provides individuals on the autism spectrum and with other disabilities the opportunity to develop and explore their real-world social skills through goal-directed group gaming experiences. Founders; Christian, Daniel, and Kelsey tailor each gaming session to help players work on their collaboration, resiliency, critical thinking, and self-reflection skills through tabletop gaming!
- [OT Conversations that Matter: The Podcast Episode 17: Neurodiversity](#)
  - Host Justine Jecker is joined by Naomi Hazlett and Melissa Croskery. Together they discuss neurodiversity's origin, its evolution since 2020, and the understanding and relationship OTs have with neurodiversity and neurodivergent clients.
- YouTube - NowThis: [Human Neurodiversity Should Be Celebrated, Not Treated as a Disorder](#)

## Books

- [Neurodiversity: The birth of an idea](#) by Judy Singer
  - Having coined the term “neurodiversity,” Judy talks about how her interests in internet online forums helped her find community and express herself as an Autistic person.

## Articles

- Altogether Autism: [Autistic Passions Should be Celebrated, Not Discouraged](#)
- My Asperger's Child: [Kids on the Autism Spectrum and Their "Special Interests": A Good or Bad Trait?](#)
- Neurodiverging: [Autistic Special Interest: Secret Strength? \(Special Interests in Autism\)](#)
- Spectrum News: [The benefits of special interests in autism](#)

## Autism Ontario Webinars and Resources

- Webinar- [Employment Readiness: Values & Interests for Career Matching with Sarah Southey](#)

## Research Links

- Grove, R., Hoekstra, R. A., Wierda, M., & Begeer. (2018). [Special interests and subjective wellbeing in autistic adults](#). *Autism Research*, 11(5), 766-775.
- Klin, A., Danovitch, J. H., Merz, A. B., & Volkmar, F. R. (2007). [Circumscribed Interests in Higher Functioning Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: An Exploratory Study](#). *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*, 32(2), 89–100.  
<https://doi.org/10.2511/rpsd.32.2.89>

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