MORE THAN WORDS – Brief Overview
(by Fern Sussman)

- This book is a guide to help parents promote communication and social skills in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- The ideas in this book are based upon The Hanen Program for parents of Children with ASD (or related communication difficulties)
- The 1st section of most chapters looks at how the information applies to children at all stages. The 2nd section outlines additional information according to a child’s specific stage of communication.

CHAPTER 1 – “GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR CHILD’S COMMUNICATION”
- Identifies stages of communication to help known what to expect and how to provide assistance
  - The Own Agenda Stage
  - The Requester Stage
  - The Early Communicator Stage
  - The Partner Stage

CHAPTER 2 – “SET GOALS BY USING YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUR CHILD”
- According to the child’s stage of communication

CHAPTER 3 – “FOLLOW YOUR CHILD’S LEAD”
- Gives information on how interaction gets communication started and what to do to help a child progress during interactions

CHAPTER 4 – “TAKE TURNS TOGETHER”
- Discusses how to keep a child interacting and playing with another in ways that promote back-and-forth turn-taking

CHAPTER 5 – “MAKE THE CONNECTION WITH PEOPLE GAMES”
- Build structure and predictability into a child’s activities and gives descriptions on how to choose and play turn-taking games with a child

CHAPTER 6 – “HELP YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAY”
- Looks at how you can adjust the way you talk to your child so that he/she can make sense of what you say

CHAPTER 7 – “USE VISUAL HELPERS”
- Outlines what you can do with objects, pictures and print to help your child understand situations, organize his/her life and express themselves

CHAPTER 8 – “R.O.C.K. IN YOUR ROUTINES”
- Combines strategies from chapters 1-7 to encourage interaction, understanding, independence and conversation during a child’s everyday routines

CHAPTER 9 – “MAKE THE MOST OF MUSIC”
- Discusses how a child’s love of music can improve interaction and communication

CHAPTER 10 – “BRING ON THE BOOKS”
- Looks at using books in a structured way to help a child understand more words and develop new thoughts and ways to communicate about them

CHAPTER 11 – “TAKE OUT THE TOYS”
- Describes the kinds of toys that will help a child develop play and communication skills

CHAPTER 12 – “LET’S MAKE FRIENDS”
- Practical suggestions on how to foster friendships in which a child continues to use his/her new communication skills