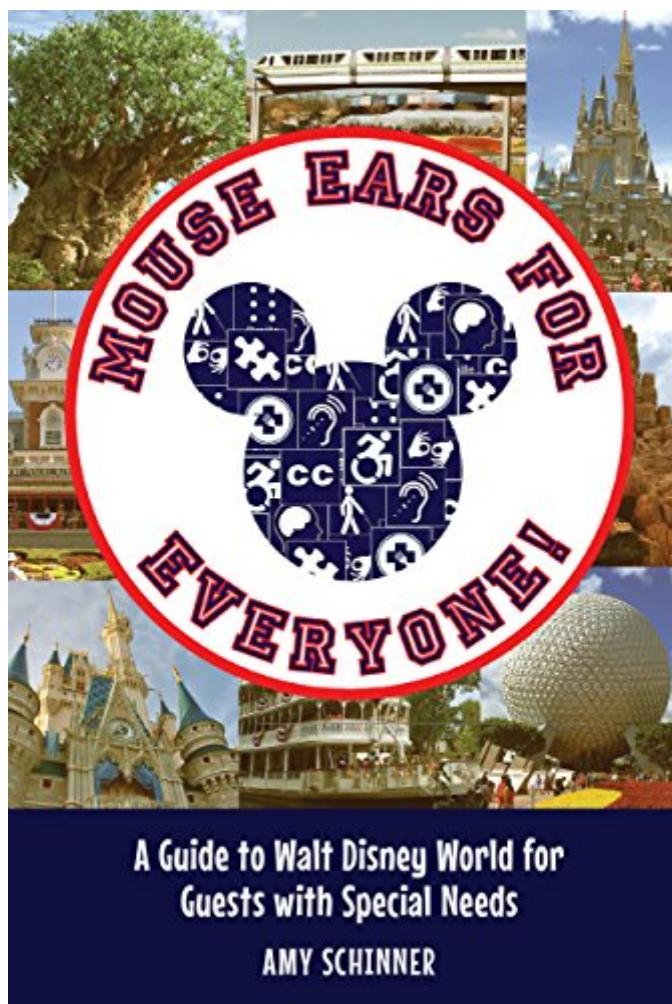


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# Mouse Ears For Everyone!: A Guide To Walt Disney World For Guests With Special Needs



## **Synopsis**

An All-Inclusive Guide to the MagicPlanning a trip to Walt Disney World is especially challenging for parents with special needs children. The theme parks are happy places— but also loud, chaotic, and teetering on the verge of sensory overload. Don't let that stop you. Everyone is entitled to some pixie dust. Amy Schinner has been a Disney fan all her life. Her trips to Disney World with her family are treasured memories. Now with two children of her own, one autistic and one not, she resolved to give them both the same experiences in the Disney theme parks that she herself had enjoyed. But with few resources available, she knew it would be a challenge. So Amy did what any parent in her position would do: she made it work. She researched, she spoke to Disney cast members, and she connected with other parents of special needs children who also wanted to experience the Disney parks, but weren't sure where to begin. The result is this book, *Mouse Ears for Everyone*, the definitive guide to planning a Walt Disney World vacation for individuals with special needs, no matter their ages. From dealing with the airlines and solving issues with wheelchairs and strollers, to managing expectations for character meet and greets, Amy brings to bear not only the hands-on experience with her own special needs child, but her organizational acumen as a regional chairperson for Autism Speaks. The book includes "sensory impact" evaluations for most rides, shows, and restaurants, and is sprinkled throughout with advice, tips, and lists to ensure a stress-free vacation. Walt Disney envisioned a theme park for everyone. No matter what difficulties you face, you can enjoy the best Disney World trip of your life.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I purchased this book for my brother-in-law and his family. They have talked about wanting to take their daughter and son, who is on the Autism Spectrum, to Disney World. They were concerned of sensory issues that might make the trip challenging. I felt that there were very specific details about each aspect of the park, as well as suggestions for picking the right hotel, to help them have a melt-down free vacation for their entire family. Thank you for taking the time to help navigate this special place for families, who have a member with a disability.

This book was perfect for our Disney planning! As a mom of a child with autism spectrum disorder and sensory sensitivities, the sensory tips on each ride was so important to me! This is an invaluable tool if you have a child with sensory issues. So much is covered in this book for those of us who have a family member with a disability. All those little extra's that the regular planning books don't take into consideration were in this book. I send my heartfelt gratitude to the author for this amazing book as it answered so much for me!

If you are a parent who needs to be on the look out for special things to consider when traveling with your kids to WDW, this is a great resource. Not all of it applied to my family, but all of the thoughts are worth considering depending on your circumstance. Often the things that make a difference to us are in the details - and this book gets into them. I also appreciate the perspective from her personal experience. It has already giving me new things to consider for our trip this year!

What a great resource to have when you are planning a special trip with someone with special needs. Lots of little details that might help you to make decisions about things that may enhance the experience, done with a personal touch. Knowing some pros and cons about places and things almost always helps and sometimes saves the day!

This book is exactly what she promised. Attractions change so some stuff may be different, but it is very informative. I had already found out some stuff and the book stated it just as I was told. Very

helpful for planning a trip to Disney World

You could spend all your free time searching the internet for information on taking your special needs family member to Disney, or you can buy this book and save precious time! Written by a mom who has spent a lot of time at Disney with her own son who has Autism Spectrum Disorder, this well organized guide makes planning your visit easier.

Valuable information. It is helpful to be prepared before I go on my trip as to what is wheelchair accessible, etc.

My mom showed me a local news article about this book, she thought my cousin might find it helpful for her 4 year old son on the spectrum. My cousin has already been to WDW with her son multiple times and knows what works for them. My mom already knew I had the disabilities side down after many trips with my special needs sister. I was already sceptical from the news article, but hoped to be surprised. I only got about 50% through the book before stopping. I will later attempt to finish, but there were so many issues to begin with. Right from the forward, I realized this was more of an opinion piece than a guide. **Resort section:** Author makes it known that she feels that if you cannot stay value or above that you will not have a good stay. I have stayed in multiple levels with my special needs, lots on anxiety, sister and she enjoyed Pop just as much as the other stays. Also it is just Wilderness Lodge, not Fort Wilderness Lodge. There is no Fort associated with the Lodge. **Tickets:** There are WDW resellers that you can save money on multiple day tickets. I generally save \$30-50 on 7 day tickets. Also, first time visitors may find the park hopper more confusing and some individuals with anxiety get upset with too much change. I tend to hop, but some days I have to hold back as my sister gets overwhelmed. **Parks:** I only started to skim as I was about to scream about so many issues. Some of the wording would confuse someone that has never been before since they will not get the references, such as TSM at rope drop. As for the sensory levels and when to use DAS vs FP, take it for a grain of salt. Based on the needs of my sister and my cousins son, these would change. My sister has some issues very similar to sensory in ASD and some of the no worries are big worries for her. The lines for some of these attractions, even in the FP line can be quite loud or dark and scary. I feel like the author needed a few more research trips to WDW for a guidebook. There have been books in the past, Passporters had a decent one, but with the changes to the disabilities program to be more like other amusement type parks, no one has done one. I think that part of that reason is that there are many websites and discussion

forums that have most of the information needed for special needs individuals. I do commend the author for seeing the need of a guidebook for those that do not like to research online, but she might have been better with less of a guide and more of a book specifically about her trips with her family and give tips through the stories told.

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