PRESS RELEASE

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**Joy, progress follow in autism families that parent with love *and* science**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denton, Texas – Parenting can be tough, and autism parenting tougher still. But many autism families have found joy, and their children are making progress, too.

For two years now, parents, clinicians and autism experts have been talking about and sharing the wisdom from *Responsible and Responsive Parenting in Autism: Between Now and Dreams* by Shahla Ala’i-Rosales and Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe. This month, the second edition debuts and in more ways that make it more accessible to caregivers.

Published reviews have called it a “first-stop” and “must-read” with its “compassionately delivered collection of useful and practical suggestions for parents.” Autism expert Dr. Bridget Taylor noted the book delivers “a transformative approach to learning, connecting, and loving” for both parents and clinicians. And renowned expert on adults with autism, Dr. Peter Gerhardt, said the authors provide “a parenting road map that is more empathetic than it is sympathetic, is evidence-based, and is accessible.”

And parents agree. One wrote that “(r)eading this book was truly as much of a delight as it was a learning experience … the authors were able to explain the principles of applied behavior analysis in plain and relatable language.” Another said the book was “wonderful” and written with “a great deal of wisdom, expertise, and compassion.”

**About Shahla.** Shahla Ala’i-Rosales, Ph.D., BCBA-D, CPBA-AP, is a professor in the Department of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas. She has taught courses in Texas, Europe and the Middle East on a variety of topics, including ethics, early autism intervention, parent training, behavioral systems, applied research methods, technology transfer, behavior change techniques, and cultural diversity. She published and presented research on social justice, ethics in early intervention, play and social skills, family harmony, and supervision and mentoring. She has more than four decades of experience working with families and has trained hundreds of behavior analysts. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts and the advisory board for the Alliance for Scientific Autism Intervention.

**About Peggy.** An award-winning writer and longtime daily journalist, Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe holds a master's degree in journalism from the University of North Texas and a master's degree in music performance from the Eastman School of Music. Her first book, *See Sam Run, a mother's story of autism*, was published in 2008 by the University of North Texas Press and won the Mayborn Prize for Literary Nonfiction in 2005. For more than a decade she has been exploring themes in autism parenting and self-determination on her blog, peggyheinkelwolfe.com.