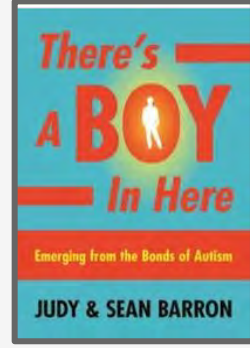
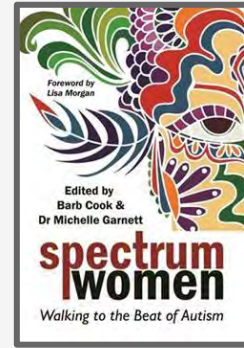
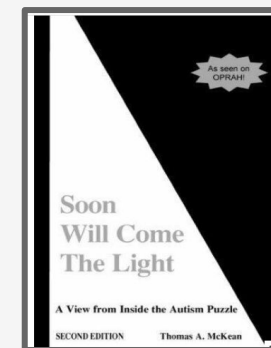
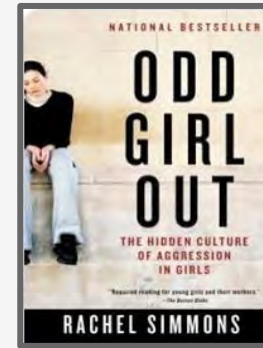
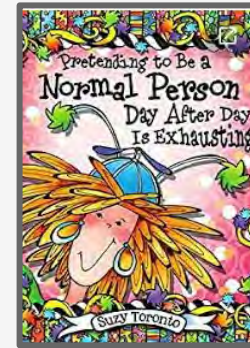
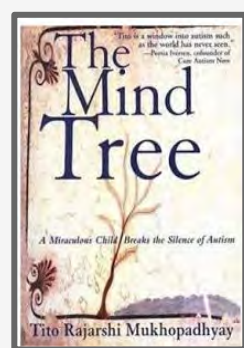
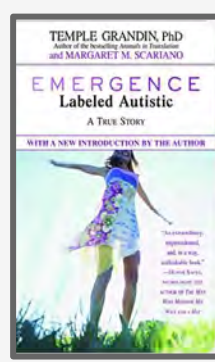


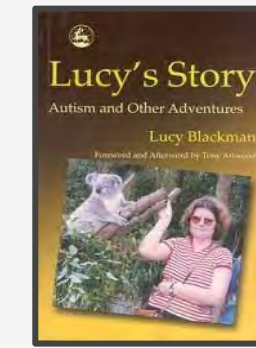
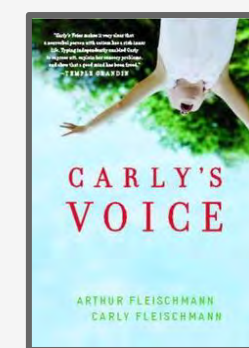
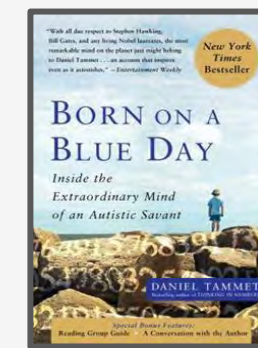
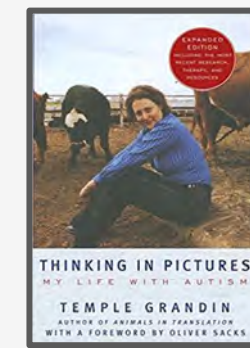
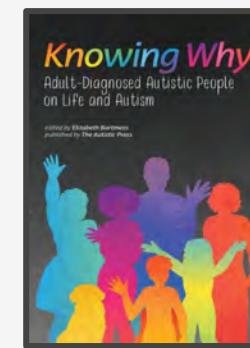
A Qualitative Analysis of Visual Sensory Quotes from Autobiographies by Autistic Authors

Allison Asher, MPH, MBA, DrPH(c), Angelica Garcia, OTS, Nichole Hastings, SA, Keri Kanetsky, MBA, Erika Pollack, CSTEP
Patricia Towle, Ph.D, Nicole Turygin, Ph.D, LEND Faculty, Community Partner: Steve Rabinowitz, M.D., Opthamologist

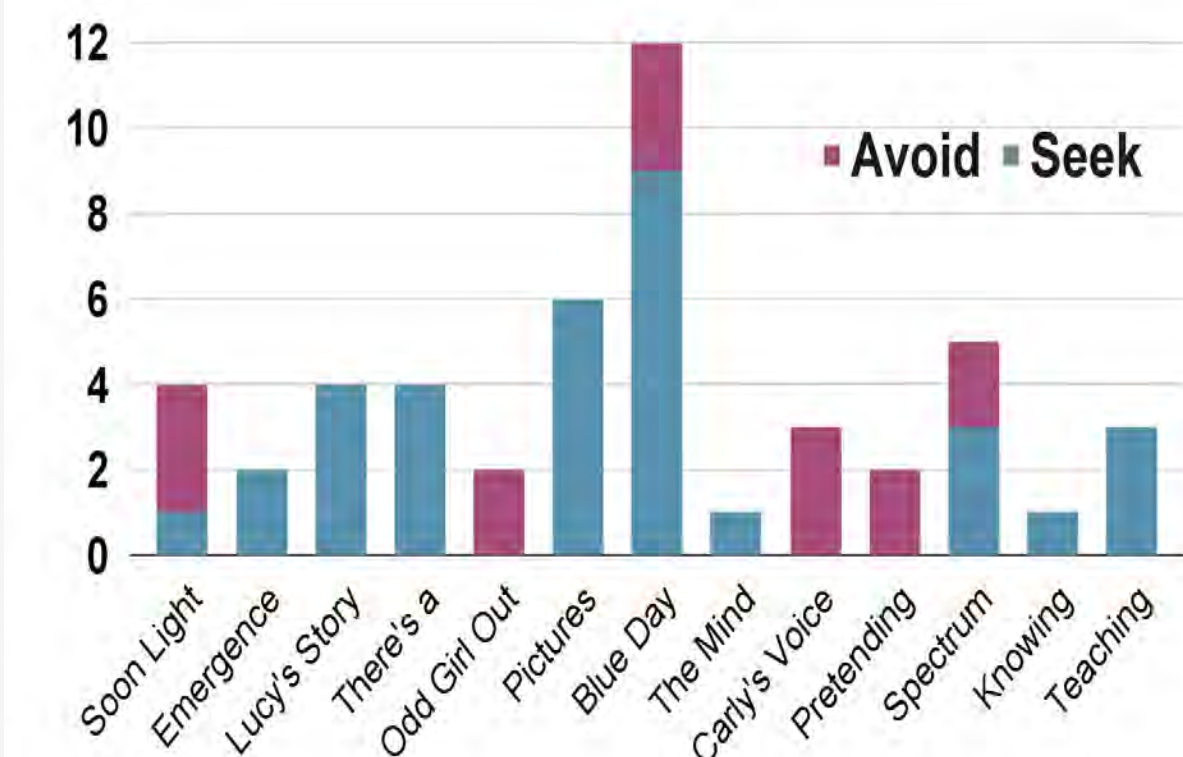
OVERALL RESULTS



13 Books
49 Quotes



Quotes by Book



Autobiographies

Discussion

- There were consistent themes in authors descriptions of atypical Visual Sensory Behaviors
- Seek or Avoid watching themes showed *what* was preferred or avoided; feeling themes suggested *why*
- Most visual *seeking* feelings related to holding attention
- Most visual *avoiding* feelings related to sensory overload and discomfort

Conclusions

- Autistic authors' autobiographies are an underutilized complement to RRB research
- Future studies should further investigate visual sensory behaviors from voices of autistic authors

Introduction

- Sensory behaviors (SB)** are one of four DSM-5 criteria for Restricted and Repetitive Behavior (RRB) in ASD
- Visual SBs** are one of the most common RRBs and an emerging area that explores the brain-behavior connection
- Autobiographies by autistic authors** provide an opportunity to understand atypical Visual SBs, preferences, and experiences in ASD
- The goal of this study** was to investigate Visual SB quotes from autistic authors and characterize experiences in terms of thematic categories

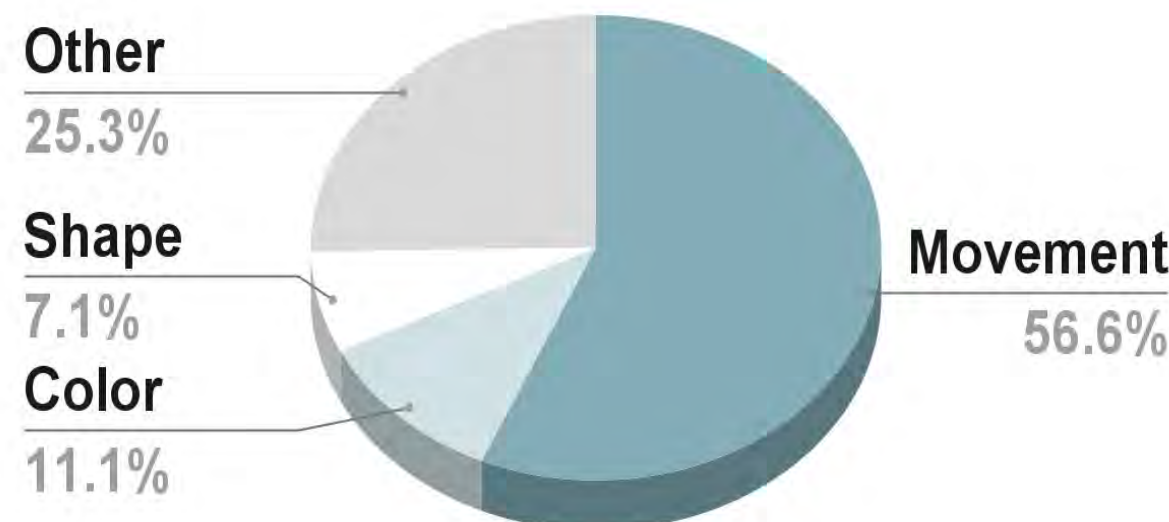
Methods

- 13 autobiographies
- Identified 49 quotes related to atypical visual behaviors
- Qualitative content analysis to divide quotes into **SEEK** (things authors *liked* to watch) and **AVOID** (things authors *disliked* watching) categories
- Thematic analysis conducted to identify themes of attraction and avoidance

SEEK RESULTS

Liked Watching: Sand, Water, Coins, Tops, Wheels, Sliding Doors

SEEK Watching Themes



Exemplars

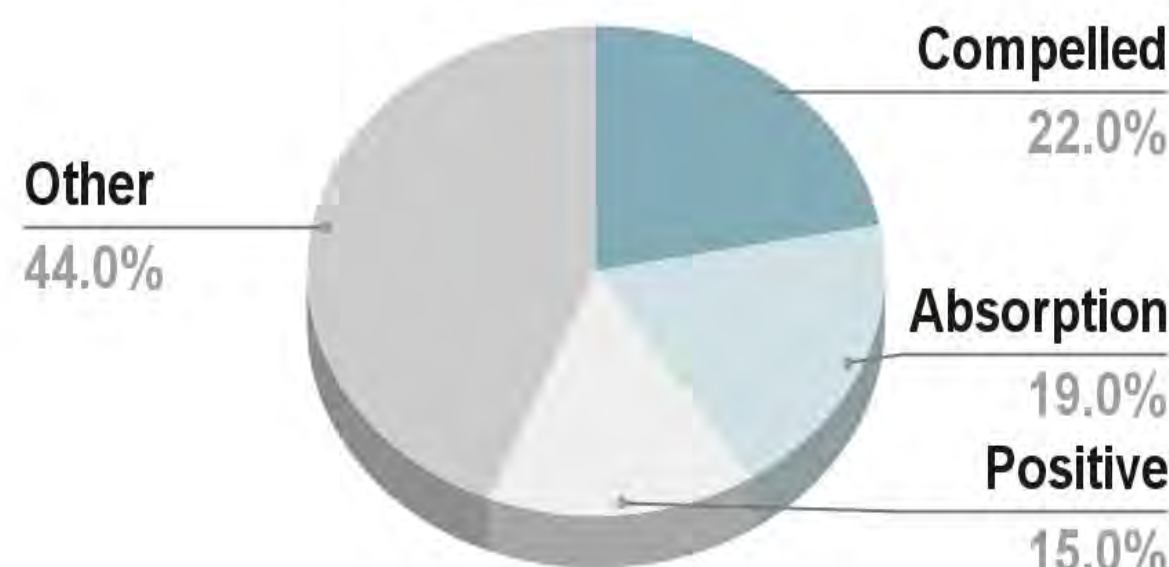
Movement: flowing (3), spinning (3), twirling (2), dribbling, dropping (2), sliding back & forth

Color: bright (2), day-glo paint

Shape: edge of door (straight), level, thick line

Other: rhythmic pattern, darkness, flames, dark print on white pages

SEEK Feeling Themes



Exemplars

Compelled to Watch: fascinating (4), hypnotized (2), mesmerizing (2), entranced, riveted

(Complete)Absorption: complete disconnection, no sense of time

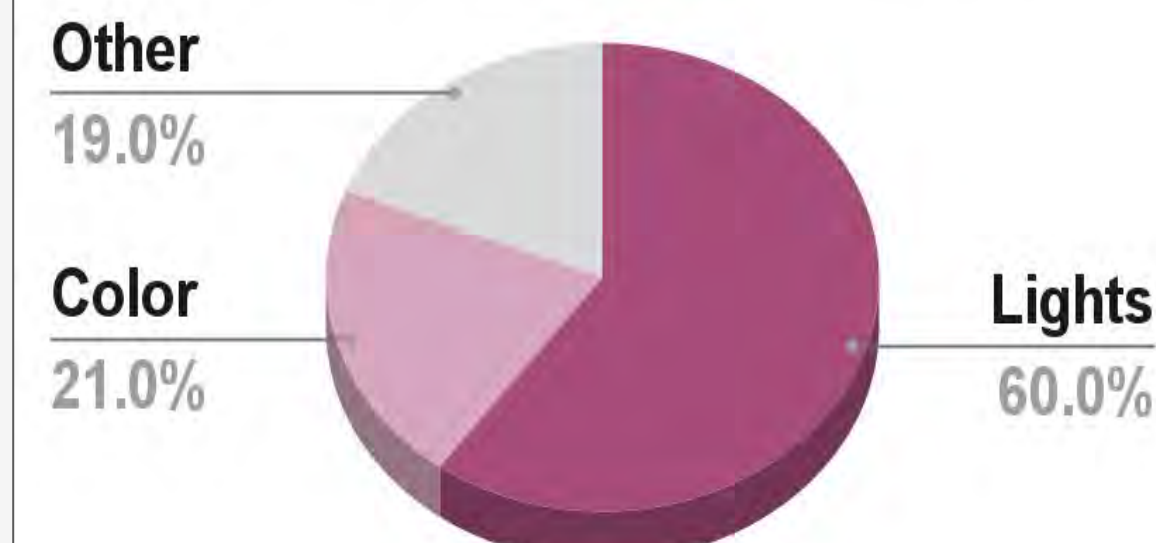
(Strong) Positive Feeling: loved (7), enormous pleasure, joy

Other: sat still for hours, never seemed to get bored, wanted to do nothing else but watch them

AVOID RESULTS

Disliked Watching: Glare, Headlights, Sun, Light

AVOID Watching Themes



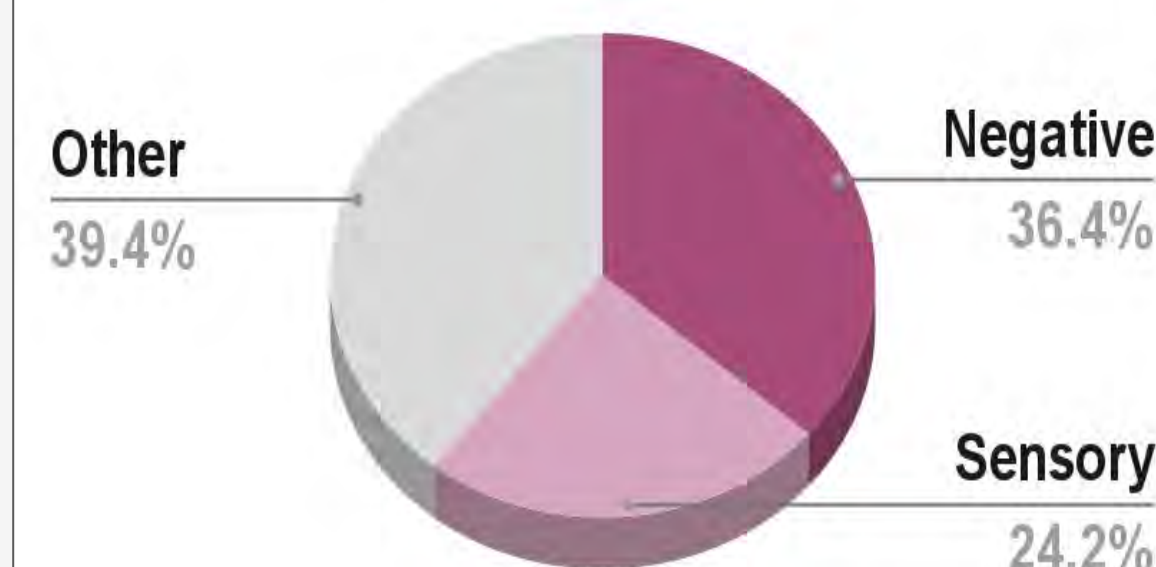
Exemplars

Lights: Bright (5), fluorescent (3), strobe (3), flickering (2), reflect (2) flashing, glare

Color: A lot (2), yellow, brown, blinding, washed out

Other: People's eyes, too many pictures, all at once

AVOID Feeling Themes



Exemplars

Negative Reaction: Hurt my eyes (2), feel icky (2), stomach would turn, head feel tight, feel queasy

Sensory Overload: Overwhelm/sensory overload (5), they drown me, blinding

Other: Difficult to cope, assaulted, until I found a safety zone, disrupt my ability to see