

Hello,

My name is Steven Decker. I am the father of two young boys with autism. I am also an author and illustrator of a new children's book.

My book, *Zack the Prairie Dog*, follows a storm-weary dachshund and an autistic prairie dog. They meet on the Oklahoma prairie after they are turned away by their peers because they are different. When the two meet, they see beyond those differences to find their gifts. In the end, they return to save the prairie dog town. Here is a trailer of my illustrations: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bg5FW9KyMgM>

Over the years, I learned that my sons, like many children with autism, were drawn to rhythm and rhyme. For example, my sons' favorite books were always Dr. Seuss classics. This was an important consideration when I was planning this book. The result is a story that is simple and fun to read. But while the book is simple to read, there is surprising depth to the story, characters and the book's messages. Those messages touch on prejudice, embracing differences, overcoming fear and the power of faith and friendship.

Heartstrings are pulled with inspired words and illustrations, and the book has moments of humor as well. I try to explain autism in a way that is easy for all children to understand. With that understanding, I hope, will come acceptance. The purchase of this book also includes a special code to receive a free, downloadable audio version of the book.

Prairie conservation is also very important to me. In fact, a prairie dog town in Lawton, OK was the first inspiration for my book. Sadly, there have been continued assaults on this town by shortsighted city officials. Despite Prairie Dog Coalition's efforts to advise them of humane methods of control, the city continues to use poison.

My third book in the *Zack the Prairie Dog* series will deal with this. In the meantime, I would like to help by offering the following arrangement with Prairie Dog Coalition. For every book sold through the following link www.zacktheprairiedog.com we will donate 25% of our proceeds back to Prairie Dog Coalition. Simply mention "Please support Prairie Dog Coalition" in the comment section of your order.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Prairie Dog Coalition and a wonderful opportunity for me to promote my greatest cause. To see that cause and my inspirations for this book, please click on the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDuvzS1LV2E>

With kindest regards,

Steven Decker