Autism’s Emotional Impact on Mothers of Autistic Children
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It has been estimated that 1 in 110 children will be diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism Speaks, 2011). Autism, often referred to as ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), is a range of complex disorders that affect a child’s developmental process. There are different severities of this disorder; however, they all share the same symptoms. This disorder can be found in a child as early as infancy and is more likely to be found in boys than in girls. ASD can cause frustration and stress in children and parents alike; the purpose of this study is to examine the emotional impact of a child’s ASD diagnosis on mothers. Three mothers who have one child with ASD, as well as children without the disorder, are interviewed as part of this study. A comparative analysis of the mothers’ responses shows what it is like to raise a child with autism and how the experiences affect them in their daily lives.