

Characteristics of Students with Asperger Syndrome

Each child with Asperger Syndrome is unique. Not every child will exhibit all of these characteristics.

Social Interaction

- Exhibits social behavior that is naive and peculiar
- Exhibits movement that is awkward and clumsy
- Has difficulty making appropriate eye contact, using interpreting gestures, and judging appropriate proximity to others
- Lacks the ability to understand and use rules governing social behavior
- Talks at instead of to people, disregarding the listener's interest or attention
- Resist or avoids competitive sports, games, and activities

Communication

- Uses formal and long-winded speech
- Has difficulty understanding expressions, gestures, and non-literal statements

Special Skills and Interests

- Has excellent rote and long-term memory skills
- Has exceptional visual strengths
- Shows intense interest in one or two subjects to the exclusion of others

Classroom Challenges

- Lacks organizational skills
- Has poor short-term memory
- Exhibits limited attention span
- Has difficulty adapting to change
- Requires structured routines and environments
- Has unusual discrepancies in skills
- Is sensitive, impulsive, anxious, or fearful