



What is Asperger's syndrome?

Like other autism profiles, Asperger syndrome is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how people perceive the world and interact with others.

A person with autism may:

- Have 'above average' intelligence
- Rarely have learning difficulties like many autistic children have but may have a specific learning difficulty
- Have fewer problems with speech but more problems with understanding and processing language
- Appear to be insensitive
- May behave worse at home than school. This is their safe place to let out frustrations from the day
- Have anxiety
- May struggle to build relationships
- Feel misunderstood
- sensitive to noise
- Difficulty interpreting verbal and non verbal language like hand gestures and tone of voice
- Have literal understanding of language
- Find it hard working in groups
- Repeat what people say or talk at length about their interests

Top Tips

- ✓ Be patient
- ✓ Make communication clear- say what you mean
- ✓ Slow down communication and give time to process information
- ✓ Keep language direct, avoid sarcasm
- ✓ Ensure you have the student's attention- use names but don't expect eye contact
- ✓ Check understanding. Just because they can repeat back an instruction, does not mean they understand
- ✓ Do not raise your voice- most students with Asperger's are sensitive to noise
- ✓ Offer support during unstructured times. Group work especially
- ✓ Use images to support learning

Useful Websites:

<http://www.autism.org.uk/about/what-is/asperger.aspx>