

On the other hand, in social interactions individuals with AS:

Can be loyal and dependable, seek the truth.

May show advanced vocabulary and interest in words.

May want to make significant contributions to conversations.

In their thinking, individuals with AS tend to have:

- Strong preference for detail
- Original and unique approaches to problem solving
- Exceptional memory and awareness of details often overlooked by others
- Persistence of thought and encyclopedic knowledge of one or more subjects

Anne Arundel County
Public Schools
Division of
Special Education

“No matter how hard the rain may fall, the sun will shine in the end.”

Stephen Shore -
Author, Advocate and man with AS

“I don’t identify myself as someone who has AS, I identify myself as a human being. Most of the time it doesn’t enter in to what I think about.”

Robert Moyer, young man with AS

References and websites for more information:

Autism Society of America

www.autism-society.org

Anne Arundel County Chapter of ASA

www.aaccasa.org

**Anne Arundel County Asperger
Parent Support Group**

www.aacaps.org

www.aspennj.org

www.tonyattwood.com

www.maapservices.org

www.autism-pdd.net

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An Overview of Asperger’s Syndrome (AS)

Each individual is unique. Not every individual will exhibit all of the characteristics commonly associated with AS.

Individuals’ symptoms will vary with ages, stages of development, environments and circumstances.

There has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of individuals diagnosed with AS.

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Characteristics of Asperger's Syndrome (AS)

Individuals with AS usually have IQs within the normal to superior range and all or some of the following behaviors:

Special Skills and Interests

- Excellent rote and memory skills
- Shows intense interest in one or two subjects to the exclusion of others
- Easily stimulated by the environment

Areas of Challenge

- Difficulties working as a team member
- Easily upset by changes
- Lacks organizational skills
- Exhibits varying attention spans

Communication

- Lacks the ability to understand and use the rules governing social exchanges. Talks at people, disregarding the listener's interest or attention

Communication continued

- Difficulties carrying on reciprocal conversations, presents either too much or too little information
- Pedantic (Little Professor) style of presentation
- Intellectualization of feelings
- Difficulties displaying empathy

Students with AS may experience:

- Immature social skills and peer interactions leading to difficulty making and keeping friends
- Difficulties in less structured settings and with multiple transitions
- Subtle tendencies to misinterpret information, particularly abstract or figurative/idiomatic language
- Difficulties understanding the consequences and repercussions of their own behaviors, often getting in power struggles with adults and peers
- Problems with regulating social/emotional responses

Adults with AS may experience:

- Difficulties living independently
- Social isolation and difficulties sustaining friendships
- Social inappropriateness which escalates into confrontations
- Difficulties navigating through college requirements/restrictions, and working cooperatively with professors and peers
- Difficulties with employment: i.e. interviewing, supervision, co-worker interaction, feedback

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