

Academic difficulties continued:

- be as concrete as possible in presenting new concepts and abstract material
- use activity-based learning where possible
- use graphic organizers such as semantic maps
- break down tasks into smaller steps or present it another way
- provide direct instruction as well as modeling
- show examples of what is required
- use outlines to help student take notes and organize and categorize information
- avoid verbal overload
- capitalize on strengths, e.g., memory
- do not assume that they have understood what they have read – check for comprehension, supplement instruction and
- use visual supports

About James

James received his masters in education Community/Counseling/Human Services from DePaul University. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has a private practice in the Gurnee Illinois. James host seminars for teacher's about Asperser's Syndrome as well as parents with children that have special needs. He also runs an 8 week program called "Creative Parenting using Smart Discipline". He also conducts private therapy for parents as well as students dealing with the many challenges of life.



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Be Positive Be Flexible Be Supportive

Asperger's Syndrome Strategies For Teachers

Hello, we are _____'s parents. Our child has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, which is a neurobiological disorder on the autistic spectrum. Children with Asperger's may have difficulty using and understanding nonverbal behaviors and developing appropriate peer relationships, in part, because their interactions often lack spontaneous exchange. While they often have keen interests and skills in certain subjects, they also may have a great deal of difficulty with organization. Asperger children may appear to lack empathy, have difficulty with sensory issues and very often strongly rely on routine. The following guide will assist you with your student with Asperger's Syndrome.

Sensory Sensitivities:

- most common sensitivities involve sound and touch, but may also include taste, light intensity, colors' and aromas
- types of noises that may be perceived as extremely intense are:
- sudden, unexpected noises such as a telephone ringing, fire alarm
- high-pitched continuous noise
- confusing, complex or multiple sounds such as in shopping centers
- be aware that normal levels of auditory and visual input can be perceived by the student as too much or too little
- keep the level of stimulation within the student's ability to cope
- it may be necessary to avoid some sounds
- having the student listen to music can camouflage certain sounds
- minimize background noise
- use of ear plugs if very extreme
- teach and model relaxation strategies and diversions to reduce anxiety

Emotional vulnerability:

- may have difficulties coping with the social and emotional demands of school
- easily stressed due to inflexibility
- often have low self-esteem
- may have difficulty tolerating making mistakes
- may be prone to depression
- may have rage reactions and temper outbursts
- provide positive praise and tell the student what she/he does right or well
- teach the student to ask for help
- teach techniques for coping with difficult situations and for dealing with stress
- use rehearsal strategies
- provide experiences in which the person can make choices
- help the student to understand his/her behaviors' and reactions of others
- educate other students
- use peer supports such as buddy systems and peer support network

Academic difficulties:

- usually average to above average intelligence
- good recall of factual information
- areas of difficulty include poor problem solving, comprehension problems and difficulty with abstract concepts
- often strong in word recognition and may learn to read very early, but difficulty with comprehension
- may do well at mathematical computations, but have difficulty with problem solving
- don't assume that the student has understood simply because he/she can re-state the information

Insistence on sameness

- wherever possible prepare the student for potential change
- use pictures, schedules and social stories to indicate impending changes