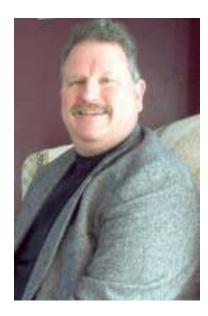
Academic difficulties continued:

- 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

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