

Autism is a group of diagnoses that varies in degree from mild to severe and is increasingly being referred to as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The following are diagnostic terms used by health care professionals for evaluations (medical, psychological, speech /language):

- Autistic Disorder
- Asperger Syndrome (AS)
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD)
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)

There is often a lack of uniformity among professionals in the use of these diagnostic terms. Many use them interchangeably or inconsistently.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Students with ASD may be educationally classified with any of the following pursuant to the IDEA:

- Autism
- Other Health Impairment
- Emotional Disturbance
- Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Multiple Disabilities

Pursuant to Part 200.13 of the Commissioner's Regulations, an "autism classification" provides specific recommendations for special education services, including parent training.

ASD is paradoxical, since, inasmuch as individuals on the spectrum are alike, they are at the same time, very different. As author Stephen Shore noted, "When you have met one person on the autism spectrum, then you have met **one** person on the autism spectrum."

We encourage our members to attend our support meetings, educational presentations and conferences. Together we help raise awareness of the needs of individuals with ASD and their families; we acquire, share and disseminate current, and relevant information in the on-going effort to support each other and those with ASD.

Those with ASD will typ of the following behav

SOCIALIZATION:

- awkwardness and clu
- naiveté and gullibility
- poor eye contact
- difficulty developing
- increased risk of victim
- inappropriate body la
- expression
- problems recognizing
- interaction
- difficulty understandi
- emotions but once a
- appropriate degree o

COMMUNICATION:

- inability to maintain re
- (take) conversation
- extreme literal use an
- language
- unusual speech patte
- abnormal tone and/c
- remarks, stilted/forma
- lecture others

BEHAVIOR & THOUGHT:

- easily upset by chang
- rigid, ritualistic behav
- fixation on one subje
- repetitive movement
- speech
- peculiar eating patte

COMMON ASSOCIATED

- emotional sensitivity o
- fears and anxiety
- hyper/hypo-sensitivity
- (sounds, light, taste, t
- physical awkwardnes
- problems with spatial
- creative thinking and
- problem solving
- exceptional skills (e.g.,
- sleeping difficulties

typically exhibit many behaviors:

business

peer relationships

ization (bullying)

language or facial

the nuances of social

ng other's feelings or

ware will have an

of compassion

reciprocal (give and

and interpretation of

erns: repetitive speech,

or volume, irrelevant

l manner, tendency to

ges in routine

ioral patterns

ct or object

s, thoughts and/or

erns

BEHAVIORS:

and under/overreaction

y to sensory stimuli

ouch, odors, pain)

ss

awareness

unconventional

memory, music, art, math)



AHA Membership Application 2009

Last Name: _____
First Name: _____
Address _____
 _____ **Zip** _____
Phone No.: (____) _____
E-Mail: _____@_____
Parent _____ **Teacher** _____ **Other** _____
Professional (Please note area of expertise) _____

Name of Individual with ASD: _____
D.O.B.: _____

If a child: School District: _____
 School Placement (if out of district): _____

If an adult:

Living: with parent (s) _____ group residence _____
 independent _____ other _____
 Work: full time _____ part time _____
 independent _____ job coach _____
 Other _____

I would like to volunteer my time (please check)
Area /interest newsletter fundraising events
 other _____

I give permission for my name/phone number to be shared with families with similar concerns.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Yearly dues (2009):
 ___ (1) year \$40.00 through 12/31/09
 ___ (2) year \$70.00 through 12/31/10
 ___ Lifetime \$400.00 \$___ Donation to AHA

Please mail this application with your check payable to AHA Association, or send credit card info to:

AHA Association
PO Box 916
Bethpage, NY 11714-0916

AHA is a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization.
 We gratefully accept (tax-deductible) donations.
 Questions? e-mail AHA President Pat Schissel at:
 info@ahaNY.org or call: 516.470.0360

Payment Type (circle one):
 Check • Money Order • Master • VISA • Discover
 Card # _____
 Exp (MM/YY) ___/___ Amt Enclosed \$ _____
 Signature _____ 0209

Phone: 516.470.0360

Website: www.ahaNY.org

Email: info@ahaNY.org

Our primary purpose is to support one another as we advocate for the unique needs of children and adults with ASD.

AHA Goals:

- To develop a strong network of parents supporting one another through the challenges of daily life
- To increase awareness and knowledge about ASD among the professionals who diagnose, treat, educate or provide services
- To promote appropriate educational programs, effective social skills training, increased social and recreational activities, meaningful employment, and sufficient and satisfying independent living accommodations for those with ASD
- To provide parents, professionals and those with ASD a useful forum where they can exchange pertinent information

AHA Offers:

- monthly parent support meetings: daytime and evening for school-age or older teen/adult populations
- monthly support meetings for teens and adults with HFA/AS partnered with GRASP
- our hotline for support and resources
- guest speakers on topics relevant to ASD
- our website with valuable information and resources (www.ahaNY.org)
- twice yearly educational conferences designed to provide the most current information and strategies (member discounts)
- our newsletter, *On The Spectrum* (members only)
- our lending library (members only)
- e-mail notification of the most recent information and events about ASD
- recreational activities for families

Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism Association



Do you know someone who...

- Is socially awkward or isolated?
- Has difficulty making or maintaining friendships?
- Has difficulty with changes in routine?
- Has problems with give and take in conversation?
- Shows "odd" behaviors and mannerisms?

Need information and support?

AHA *can help!*

For families, individuals and professionals affected by Asperger Syndrome, High Functioning Autism and other Pervasive Developmental Disorders

Main 516.470.0360
www.ahaNY.org

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AHA Association

Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism Association (AHA) Inc.
PO Box 916, Bethpage, NY 11714-0916

Support Group Meetings for:

Parents of Students

Parents of Older