AHA Association
Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism Association

AHA serves individuals on the autism spectrum, their families, and the professionals who work with them, providing crucial resources and support as they face challenges, build on their strengths, and fulfill their potential. AHA helps families and individuals become informed self-advocates. Our programs encourage awareness and acceptance.

AHA Goals:
• Support meetings, phone and e-support for family members of school-age children, families of teens in transition, families of older teens and adults, and adult groups for individuals on the spectrum and their families.
• Conferences for professionals, family members, and individuals on the autism spectrum.
• Referral to professionals and resources.
• Transition and post-secondary program information.
• Social and family events for all ages.

AHA Offers:
• Monthly support for family members of children, families of teens in transition, families of older teens and adults, and adult groups for individuals on the spectrum.
• Conferences for professionals, family members, and individuals on the autism spectrum.
• Referral to professionals and resources.
• Transition and post-secondary program information.
• Social and family events for all ages.

Do you know a child, teen, or adult on the autism spectrum? Need information and support? AHA can help!
Autism is a group of diagnoses that varies in degree from mild to severe and is referred to as the autism spectrum.


Evaluations and literature dated prior to 2013 often use these terms interchangeably and inconsistently. We expect Asperger syndrome to continue in common usage as a unifying force within the community.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Students on the autism spectrum 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.

The autism spectrum 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 on the spectrum and their families; we acquire, share and disseminate current, and relevant information in the on-going effort to support each other.

Those on the autism spectrum will typically exhibit many of the following behaviors:

**SOCIALIZATION:**
- awkwardness and clumsiness
- naiveté and gullibility
- poor eye contact
- difficulty developing peer relationships
- increased risk of victimization (bullying)
- inappropriate body language or facial expression
- problems recognizing the nuances of social interaction
- difficulty understanding other’s feelings or emotions but once aware will have an appropriate degree of compassion

**COMMUNICATION:**
- inability to maintain reciprocal (give and take) conversation
- extreme literal use and interpretation of language
- unusual speech patterns: repetitive speech, abnormal tone and/or volume, irrelevant remarks, stilted/formal manner, tendency to lecture others

**BEHAVIOR & THOUGHT:**
- easily upset by changes in routine
- rigid, ritualistic behavioral patterns
- fixation on one subject or object
- repetitive movements, thoughts and/or speech
- peculiar eating patterns

**COMMON ASSOCIATED BEHAVIORS:**
- emotional sensitivity and under/overreaction
- fears and anxiety
- hyper/hypo-sensitivity to sensory stimuli (sounds, light, taste, touch, odors, pain)
- physical awkwardness
- problems with spatial awareness
- creative thinking and unconventional problem solving
- exceptional skills (e.g., memory, music, art, math)
- sleeping difficulties

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**AHA Membership**

Join online at ahany.org or complete this application

Last Name: __________________________
First Name: __________________________
Address: ____________________________
Home: __________________ Cell: __________________
E-Mail: ____________________________ @ __________________
Parent ____ Teacher ____ Professional ____
Individual ____ Other ____
Name of Individual: ___________________
D.O.B.: _____________________________

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

If an adult:
Living: ______ with parent(s) ______ group residence ______
____ independent ______ other ______
____ partner ______ spouse ______
Work: ______ full time ________
____ independent ________ part time ________ job coach ______

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

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

Yearly dues:
____ (1) year $40.00
____ (2) year $70.00
____ Lifetime $400.00 $ _______ Donation to AHA

Mail this application with your check payable 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 Executive Director Pat Schissel at: info@ahany.org or call: 888.918.9198

Payment Type (circle one):
Check • Money Order • MC • VISA • Discover • AMEX

Signature ___________________________
Exp (MM/YY) ______/____ Amt Enclosed $________
Card# ___________ Security Code ________