



Asperger Syndrome: It's Signs and Symptoms

Asperger Syndrome (AS) is a neurobiological disorder that belongs to a group of diagnoses called “autistic spectrum disorder”. The term “autistic spectrum” refers to a range of developmental disabilities that includes autism as well as other disorders with similar characteristics. Broad terms such as “low-functioning”, “high-functioning,” and “autistic tendencies” are often used to distinguish between the different behavior patterns within this spectrum. Those living with Asperger Syndrome share many of the same symptoms as “high-functioning” autistic individuals. Here are a number of signs and symptoms to indicate it's presence in a child:

- Inappropriate or minimal social interactions
- Conversations centered on self rather than on others
- Stilted or repetitive speech
- Lack of “common sense”
- Problems with reading, math, or writing skills
- Obsessions with complex topics such as music or patterns
- Average to above average verbal cognitive abilities
- Awkward movements or routines

One noteworthy fact of Asperger Syndrome diagnosed individuals, is the fact that they seldom show the language development delays often displayed in children with autism. They usually have good grammatical skills and an advanced vocabulary within an early age; however, these individuals can be extremely literal and may have conflicts with using language in social settings. Children with Asperger Syndrome generally have average to above-average intelligence levels but lack the abilities to maintain attention and organize well. They are greatly evolved in some areas but lacking vastly in others.

Although there is currently no known “cure” for Asperger syndrome there are things a parent can do if he or she suspects that a child may have this disorder such as:

- Social skills trainings and groups
- Parental education and training
- Behavior modification and other psychosocial interventions

As with all behavior issues that are generally difficult to detect and treat, it is best to seek professional help when determining an effective treatment for your child. Many resources exist in your community to assist you in gaining access to these professionals and to address any question or concerns you may have.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 337-436-9533 or 1-888-414-FYCA.

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