

Autism Spectrum Disorder



Common areas of gifting or strength

- Repetition, patterns, sameness
- Passion and expertise in certain topics of interest
- One or more senses may be very acute

Common areas of challenge

- Processing language and social cues
- Understanding what others are thinking
- Regulating self (emotions, behaviors, reactions),

particularly when change is introduced or sameness ends.

Quick facts

- Autism Spectrum Disorder is a term used to describe a collection of areas of difference. Persons with ASD, however, are each unique and have varying levels of difference in all of the identified areas.
- A person with ASD may express happiness and excitement through repetitive motion, such as flapping hands or a quick turn of the head back and forth, particularly if using words is an area of struggle.
- Differences may be noticed and diagnosed in early childhood (usually around age 3).
- ASD is a neurological difference. It is said to be a way of thinking and being. It has to do with how the individual is knit together by God (see Psalm 139).

Resources

Further Learning

- socialincites.com/autismaspergers.html
- friendship.org/better-belonging-autism-spectrum-disorder/
- autismspeaks.org/blue-blessings-resources

Books for Adults

- [*My ASD to Z*](#), by Laurel Falvo
- [*Autism and Your Church*](#), by Barbara J. Newman
- [*Kids in the Syndrome Mix*](#), by Martin L. Kutscher MD

Books for Kids

- *If I Squeeze Your Head I'm Sorry*, by Rylan and Gwen Vogelzang
- *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures*, by Julia Finley Mosca (read-aloud video: youtu.be/qfyn0vZrgDI)

Videos

- Ability Revolution's #FlipTheScript on (dis)ABILITY: Episode 3 “The Non-Literal” (2:01) youtu.be/8x4vcqmwrhg
- Autism Society of Ontario, “Connecting the Autism Community Through Story” (7:18) vimeo.com/123107774
- “Life Animated” -a full feature documentary, see more at lifeanimateddoc.com