



What is Asperger's Syndrome (diagnostically now referred to as an Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD)?

Common characteristics of children/adolescents can include:

- Delayed social maturity and social reasoning.
- Difficulty making friends and often teased by other children.
- Difficulty with the communication and
- Difficulty with identifying/controlling emotions.
- Unusual language abilities that include advanced vocabulary and syntax but delayed conversation skills, unusual prosody and a tendency to be pedantic.
- A fascination with a topic that is unusual in intensity or focus.
- An unusual profile of learning abilities.
- A need for assistance with some self-help and organizational skills.
- Clumsiness in terms of gait and coordination.
- Sensitivity to specific sounds, aromas, textures or touch.

The advantages of a diagnosis can be:

- Being recognized as having genuine difficulties coping with experiences that others find easy and enjoyable.
- A positive change in other people's expectations, acceptance and support.
- Compliments rather than criticism with regard to social competence.
- Acknowledgement of confusion and exhaustion in social situations.
- Schools can access resources to help the child and class teacher.
- An adult can access specialized support services for employment and further education.
- Greater self-understanding, self-advocacy and better decision making with regard to careers, friendships and relationships.
- A sense of identification with a valued 'culture'.
- The person no longer feels stupid, defective or crazy.

To get more information about Asperger's/Autism Spectrum Disorder, please contact LBP at 440-331-4884.