

Does this describe your child/student?

- Does not pick up on social cues and may lack inborn social skills, such as being able to read others' body language, start or maintain a conversation, and take turns talking.
- Dislikes any changes in routines.
- Appears to lack empathy.
- Is unable to recognize subtle differences in speech tone, pitch, and accent that alter the meaning of others' speech. Thus, your child may not understand a joke or may take a sarcastic comment literally. Likewise, his or her speech may be flat and difficult to understand because it lacks tone, pitch, and accent.
- Has a formal style of speaking that is advanced for his or her age. For example, the child may use the word "beckon" instead of "call" or the word "return" instead of "come back."
- Avoids eye contact or stare at others.
- Has unusual facial expressions or postures.
- Is preoccupied with only one or few interests, which he or she may be very knowledgeable about; is overly interested in parts of a whole or in unusual activities, such as designing houses, drawing highly detailed scenes, or studying astronomy; shows an unusual interest in certain topics such as snakes, names of stars, or dinosaurs.²
- Talks a lot, usually about a favorite subject. One-sided conversations are common. Internal thoughts are often verbalized.
- Has delayed motor development. Your child may be late in learning to use a fork or spoon, ride a bike, or catch a ball. He or she may have an awkward walk. Handwriting is often poor.
- Has heightened sensitivity and become overstimulated by loud noises, lights, or strong tastes or textures. For more information about these symptoms, see sensory integration dysfunction.