

Helping Students Be Their Best

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THE COLLEGE
OF LAW

Overview

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (“ASD”)
- Causes
- Signs
- Strategies

Reflection

- Can you recall a student that has disrupted a class due to behavioural issues?
- How did you react to those behaviours?

ASD

Neuro-developmental disorder which affects:

- Social skills, communication, emotions (significant difficulty)
- Behaviours and interests (rigidity)
- The senses (sensitivity)

Asperger's Syndrome

- Average or above intellectual functioning and no language delay

Causes

- Genes
- Medication
- Infectious agents
- Increased paternal age

Prevalence

- The figures are rubbery!
- Approximately 1% of the population
- 2 : 1 Male to Female

Amazing Things Happen

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JdCY-cd_gkl

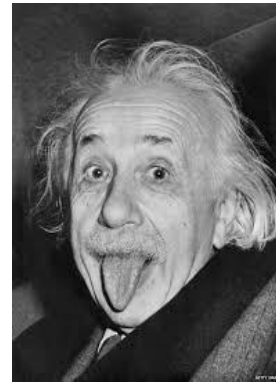
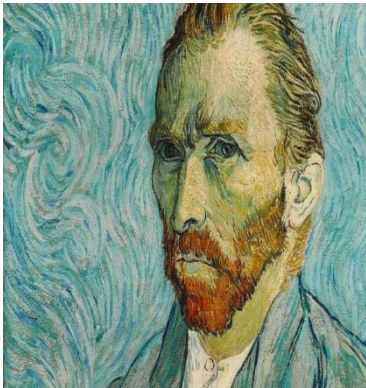
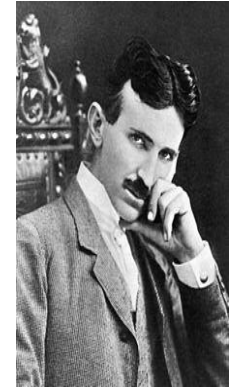
Strengths!

Common areas of strength include being:

- Highly logical
- Persistent, hard working and details orientated
- Extremely loyal and truthful

Neurodiversity

Famous



ASD Characteristics Are Universal

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHRVBVz6BSs>

ASD

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- The senses (sensitivity)

Social Skills

- Inappropriate comments
- Empathy
- Relationships

Social Skills and Communication

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=_WSQLXVtTQg\
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsRdpPMAvfS>

Communication

- Literal interpretations
- Poor eye contact
- Facial expressions
- Transitions
- Wordiness / quirky speech
- Oddities in loudness, pitch, tone and rhythm



Behaviours

- Follows the rules
- Struggles with “unwritten rules”
- Likes black and white
- Struggles to apply things in different contexts

Behaviours

- Emotions can be neutral or extreme
- Restricted and repetitive interests and behaviours
- Struggles with organisation
- Struggles with change
- Echolalia



Sensory

- Extreme sensitivity to sensory stimuli
- Sound, touch, light, smell

Sensory

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lr4_dOorquQ



Challenges for Students With ASD

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=40&v=OBGI2aivsJ0



Challenges for Students With ASD

- Social interaction
- Communication
- Behaviours
- Secondary characteristics
- Coping
- Social acceptance



What Can We Do?

1. Manage the emotion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Upx7ri3ZG2o>

What Can We Do?

2. Take the time to know the student

Unpack it and listen and understand how they feel

Group Work

- Be clear with expectations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sb8hNgk9-W0>

Adherence to routines and rules

- > Manage change
- > Notify of changes ASAP
- > Use multiple sources of information
- > Discuss behaviours

Poor organisation

- Time management issues
- Initiation issues
- Becoming overwhelmed

-> Provide time management strategies and support

Attention to detail and focus

- Can't get them off a topic of interest
 - > Use the focus to motivate the student
 - > Be specific, give them specific tasks

Forthrightness in communication

- Too blunt
- > Don't take it personally
- > Manage the behaviour

Good rote memory

- They will hold you to your word

-> Follow through

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tf4xbLtXhVY>



What Can We Do?

3. Talk in facts
4. Be clear, direct and specific

The GPS voice :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=157&v=CPn4cpcPG5s

Communication

- Avoid figurative language
- Use facts
- Focus on support and practical management strategies

Dealing with difficult behaviours

1. Manage the emotion
2. Understand the student
3. Talk in facts
4. Be clear, direct and specific
5. Focus on support and practical management strategies
6. Follow through

Reflection

- What do you think led to the student behaving that way?
- Were there any triggers beforehand?

Reflection

- In hindsight, could you have managed that situation differently?

<http://tertiaryautismsupport.com.au/>