



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/qfynovZrgDI)

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