

**“Exceptional human beings must be given exceptional educational treatment, treatment which takes into account their special difficulties. Further, we can show that despite abnormality, human beings can fulfill their social role within the community, especially if they find understanding, love and guidance.”**

*Hans Asperger*

**“I don’t identify myself as someone who has AS, I identify myself as a human being. Most of the time it doesn’t enter in to what I think about.”**

*Robert Moyer- young man with AS*

## References and websites for more information:

**Autism Society of America**  
[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

**Anne Arundel County Chapter of ASA**  
[www.aaccasa.org](http://www.aaccasa.org)

**Anne Arundel County Asperger Parent Support Group**  
[www.aacaps.org](http://www.aacaps.org)

[www.aspennj.org](http://www.aspennj.org)

[www.tonyattwood.com](http://www.tonyattwood.com)

[www.maapservices.org](http://www.maapservices.org)

[www.autism-pdd.net](http://www.autism-pdd.net)



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### For more information, contact:

Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Division of Human Resources  
2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401  
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[www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org)

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*An overview of...*



## Asperger’s Syndrome

**“No matter how hard the rain may fall, the sun will shine in the end”**

*Stephen Shore -  
Author, Advocate, man and with AS*



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# Asperger's Syndrome (AS)

## General Overview of AS

**AS is an Autistic disorder most notable for the discrepancy between intellectual and social abilities of those who have the disorder.**

Two out of every 10,000 children have AS. Boys are three to four times as likely as girls to have the disorder.

The onset of AS commonly occur after the age of 3. Symptoms will vary depending on age, development, environment and circumstance.

Each individual with AS is unique. Individuals may not exhibit all of the characteristics commonly associated with AS.

## Characteristics Associated With AS

**Behaviors or characteristics typically observed in individuals with AS:**

### Social Skills

- Immature social skills and peer interactions leading to difficulty making and keeping friends
- Difficulties in less structured settings and with multiple transitions
- Subtle tendencies to misinterpret information, particularly abstract or figurative/idiomatic language
- Difficulties understanding the consequences and repercussions of their own behaviors, often getting in power struggles with adults and peers
- Problems regulating social/emotional responses

### Communication

- Lacks the ability to understand and use the rules governing social exchanges. They often talk at people, disregarding the listener's interest or attention
- Difficulties carrying on reciprocal conversations, presents either too much or too little information
- Pedantic or rigid style of presentation
- Difficulties displaying empathy or sensitivity to other's feelings

**Students with AS may experience the following challenges:**

### Areas of Challenge

- Difficulties working as a team
- Easily upset by changes
- Lack organizational skills
- Exhibit varying attention spans

**In addition, individuals with AS tend to exhibit:**

- Strong preference for detail
- Original and unique approaches to problem solving
- Exceptional memory and awareness of details often overlooked by others
- Persistence of thought and encyclopedic knowledge of one or more subjects
- Loyalty and dependability
- Advanced vocabulary and interest in words
- Significant contributions to conversations

