

Facts about Asperger Disorder

- * People with Asperger Disorder are probably born with it. It doesn't hurt, and people with Asperger Disorder don't feel sick, except when they get a cold or an upset stomach, just like everybody else.
- * Asperger Disorder is not contagious. You won't catch Asperger Disorder from people who have it.
- * People with Asperger Disorder may be very interested in specific things. They may spend a lot of their time learning and talking about their favorite hobby.
- * People with Asperger Disorder may have a difficult time doing things with other people and may seem less interested in people than other things.
- * Boys are more likely to have Asperger Disorder than girls.



What causes Asperger Disorder?

Scientists are doing a lot of research to find out what exactly causes Asperger Disorder. Many of them think there is a part of the brain that controls how well people interact with others. This part of the brain may work differently in people with Asperger Disorder.



Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
Department of Child and Family Studies
Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute
University of South Florida MHC2113A
13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612

In Florida: 1-800-333-4530 or (813) 974-2532
<http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu>

ASPERGER DISORDER



Information for
KIDS only!

What is Asperger Disorder?

People with Asperger Disorder have it from the time they are very little. Kids with Asperger Disorder are very good at some things, and have trouble with other things.

They also look the same as all other kids do. They just act differently sometimes.

For example, kids with Asperger Disorder may be very interested in certain topics or hobbies, such as maps or bus routes. When they get interested in a particular topic, they learn everything they can and become an expert on it.

Often a kid with Asperger Disorder likes to know when and how things are to happen each day. However, it may be harder for them to organize their school work exactly the way their teachers want it.

Kids with Asperger Disorder have the most difficulty hanging out and playing with other kids. Sometimes they may say or do things that are hard for other kids to understand.

They usually do not mean to upset other people by the things they say or do. They are often surprised when other kids don't understand.

Many times kids with Asperger Disorder believe that everything they are told or



read is true. Other times, they might not understand that words have two meanings. If you hear expressions like "bookworms", "ants in their pants", or "spill the beans", you know they stand for someone who likes to read, someone who can't sit still, or telling a secret.

A kid with Asperger Disorder might think they are about real worms, real ants, or real beans.

A good friend might try to tell a kid with Asperger Disorder the truth, or might try to explain things like those sayings that they really don't understand.

How can I get to know someone with Asperger Disorder?

Sometimes kids with Asperger Disorder feel lonely because they don't know how to tell people what they are feeling, or they don't know how to start a conversation with a friend.

You can help by saying, "Hi, my name is _____. What's your name?" Just think of something you like, or that your friend with Asperger Disorder likes, and ask a question about it. Don't be hurt if your friend doesn't answer right away or says something you don't understand. Just keep trying!

Will a kid with Asperger Disorder have it all his life?

Kids with Asperger Disorder do not grow out of it, but they will learn many things as they grow and will get better at them, just like you will.

The best way for them to understand these things is having other kids like you give them a chance to learn how to be more comfortable with other people.

You can learn a lot from them, too. Even though they may see the world a bit differently than you do, they can be good friends and have interesting things to tell you about.

