



Rowan University, Disability Resources

Faculty Fact Sheet- Autism Spectrum Disorder

Definition: "Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) ... [is a general term] for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors." Autism Speaks

Typical Symptoms:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor Eye Contact• Inappropriate social interaction• Unusually strong narrow interests• Above average to superior intelligence• Lacking voice intonation• Impulsivity• Very literal and concrete thinking patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulties adjusting to change• Inflexibility• Hypersensitivity to sensory stimulus• Difficulty interpreting body language of others• Motor clumsiness• Organizational difficulties• Poor handwriting
---	---

Classroom Behaviors:

Students may:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attempt to monopolize conversations• Become tangential in answering questions• Exhibit distracting behavior in long class• Engage in self stimulating behavior (e.g., rocking, tapping, manipulating objects)

(Please note: not every student with ASD will demonstrate all these Symptoms and Behaviors.)

Strategies:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide clear expectations and rules for behavior.2. Allow student breaks during class (as needed) to prevent over-stimulation.3. Redirect response to bring student to point of answer.4. Provide clearly established and ordered routines.5. Stop inappropriate behaviors with short, clear and precise statements, as non-verbal cues are often missed.6. Avoid situations which may cause sensory overload, such as loud noises or bright lights.7. Instruct student who engages in preservative questioning or commenting to write down his/her questions and comments and address them after class.8. Create an explicit visual cue to use when the student's questions or comments interfere with classroom instruction.9. Avoid sarcasm, double meanings, and idiomatic expressions.10. Allow student to use word-processing software for assignments and essay questions.
--

Fact Sheet developed by Montclair State University /Disability Resources Center

Contact: John Woodruff - Disability Resources, ext. 4234 /woodruff@rowan.edu