Autism Characteristics

Persons with autism may possess the following characteristics in various combinations and in varying degrees of severity.



No real fear of dangers



Apparent insensitivity to pain



Inappropriate laughing or giggling



May not want to be touched



Sustained unusual or repetitive play; uneven physical or verbal skills



Inappropriate attachments to objects



Inappropriate / extreme response to sounds / lights



May avoid eye contact



May prefer to be alone



Insistence on sameness; needs help making transitions from one thing to another



May echo words or phrases



Difficulty in expressing needs; may use gestures



Spins objects or self



Difficulty interacting with others

Autism Society of America Adapted from original: Prof. Rendle-Short, University of Queensland, Brisbane Children's Hospital, Australia