

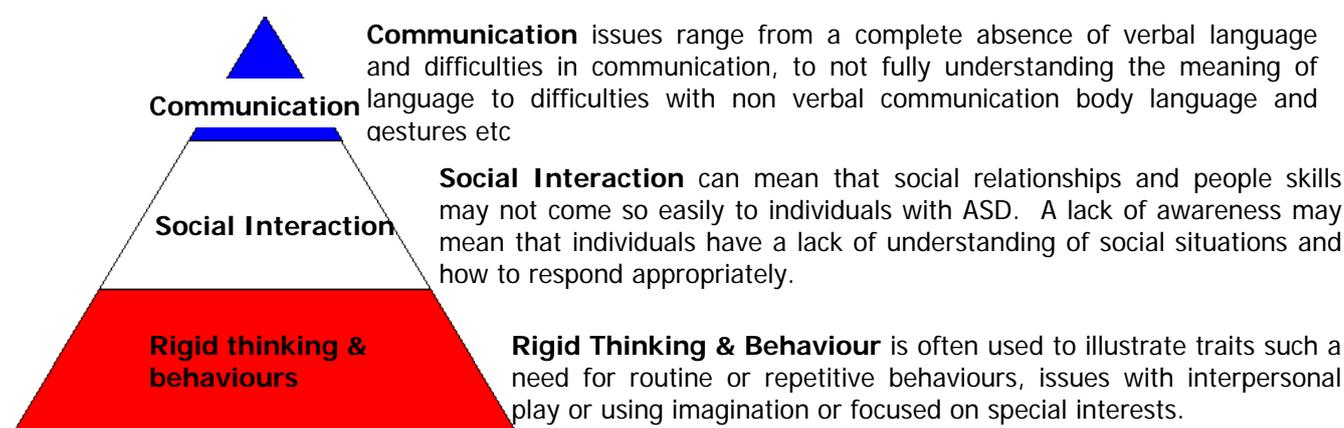
Autistic Spectrum Disorders – An Overview:

Autistic Spectrum Disorders are conditions that affect how a person communicates and relates to others. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how an individual interacts with the world around them.

Often referred to as an 'invisible' condition it can be difficult to raise awareness and understanding.

Individuals on the Spectrum display characteristics in three areas communication, social interaction and rigid thinking and behaviour.

The Triad of Impairments and Indicators of ASD



The fourth impairment – People on the spectrum often display heightened sensitivity to sensory issues such as sights, taste, sound, touch, and smells.

Autism & Co-morbidity

There is an increased awareness between the links between conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity disorder, Dyslexia, Dsypraxia etc and autism. It is important to consider that individuals may show traits common to other. Traits of Autism/Asperger could be seen as an umbrella under which other conditions could occur together (be co-morbid). It is important that each is considered separately and separate diagnoses are sought.



What Causes Autism? - There is no exact cause of Autism that has been identified, but there are associations made with genetic factors and other conditions.

How can People be helped? – People with Autistic Spectrum Disorders lead effective lives. Education, support and personal development can help individuals achieve their potential and lead successful lives. Individual will benefit from specific and well structured support in relation to daily living.