

Name _____ **Author's Language and Claims**

Asperger's Syndrome

Asperger's Syndrome is an autism spectrum disorder that affects language and behavioral development in children. Because Asperger's can present in many different ways, no two children are affected in the same way, but it is always characterized by having significant trouble with social situations.

Asperger's is usually first noticed by parents when a child becomes old enough to interact with other children, typically in the preschool years. Children with Asperger's have trouble picking up on social cues like body language and taking turns talking, and may have difficulty starting or maintaining a conversation. They may avoid eye contact, or stare at others, or have unusual facial expressions or postures. Often, children with Asperger's are unable to recognize the subtle differences in speech tone, pitch, and accent that give additional meaning to speech. Their own speech may also lack tone, pitch, and accent. Those suffering from Asperger's may seem to lack empathy, and are extremely disturbed by changes in routine. They are often delayed in developing motor skills and can suffer an extreme sensitivity to stimulation like lights or loud noises. Children with Asperger's are often preoccupied with very limited and specific interests, for example, drawing highly detailed scenes or studying baseball statistics. In order to be diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a child must not only have a combination of these symptoms, but must have significant trouble in social situations. Although similar to Autism, children with Asperger's experience normal language and intellectual development.



1. What is meant by "autism spectrum?" _____

2. What does it mean that Asperger's can "present" in many different ways? _____
