

ASM MEMBERSHIP

- INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY MEMBER \$25.00
 - CHAMPION \$75.00
 - PROFESSIONAL \$150.00
 - LIFETIME \$1,500.00
 - DONATION \$ _____
- TOTAL: \$ _____

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS PLEASE CIRCLE HOME OR WORK _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

INFORMATION ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

NAME _____

MALE/FEMALE DATE OF BIRTH DIAGNOSIS

CHECK WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOU:

- INDIVIDUAL ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM
- PARENT
- FAMILY
- PROFESSIONAL

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- CHECK AUTISM ADVOCATE JOURNAL
- VISA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CONFERENCES
- MASTERCARD ACCESS TO ASM FAMILY RETREAT
- PURCHASE ORDER AND SUMMER CAMP

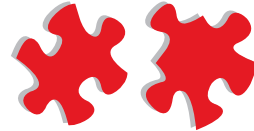
_____-_____-_____- _____
CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

MEMBERSHIP FORMS CAN BE MAILED OR FAXED. YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP ONLINE AT WWW.ASMONLINE.ORG

MISSION STATEMENT

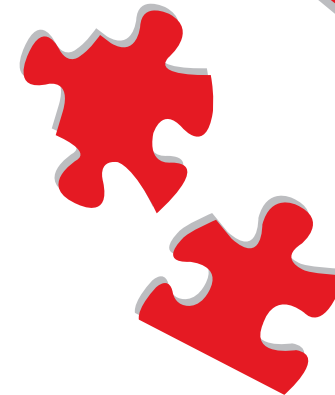
The Autism Society of Maine is a non-profit organization that serves individuals with autism and their families, professionals, and communities by providing education, advocacy, referrals, and resource development. The Society provides current information in support of informed choice of treatments and services.



THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF MAINE IS AN OFFICIAL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUTISM SOCIETY.

Autism Society of Maine
72B Main St
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E-mail: asm@asmonline.org
www.asmonline.org
Revised 6/10

national Autism Society
www.autism-society.org



Asperger's Disorder

WHAT IS ASPERGER'S DISORDER?



In 1944 Hans Asperger, an Austrian physician, published an account describing children with impaired social interactions and communication. Today the term Asperger's Disorder is currently defined by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in the fourth edition of their diagnostic manual: "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" (DSM-IV-TR). Asperger's Disorder first appeared in the DSM manual in 1994. While this formal definition was new to the American professional community, it had been accepted by some European professionals since the publication of Hans Asperger's original paper.

Asperger's Disorder is one of five disorders defined in the DSM under the category of "Pervasive Developmental Disorder". The other four disorders are Autistic Disorder, Rett's Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified (PDD - NOS). According to the DSM-IV-TR, the criteria for Asperger's Disorder are as follows:

A. Qualitative impairment in social interactions, as manifested by at least two of the following:

(1) marked impairment in the use of multiple nonverbal behaviors such as eye-eye gaze, facial expression, body postures, and gestures to regulate social interaction

(2) failure to develop peer relationships appropriate to developmental level

(3) lack of spontaneous seeking to share enjoyment, interests, or achievements with other people (e.g. by a lack of showing, bringing, or pointing out objects of interest to other people)

(4) lack of social or emotional reciprocity

B. Restricted repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, and activities, as manifested by at least one of the following:

(1) encompassing preoccupation with one or more stereotyped and restricted patterns of interest that is abnormal either in intensity or focus

(2) apparently inflexible adherence to specific, nonfunctional routines or rituals

(3) stereotyped and repetitive motor mannerisms (e.g., hand or finger flapping or twisting, or complex whole-body movements)

(4) persistent preoccupation with parts of objects

C. The disturbance causes clinically significant impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.

D. There is no clinically significant general delay in language (e.g., single words used by age 2 years, communicative phrases used by age 3 years).

E. There is no clinically significant delay in cognitive development or in the development of age-appropriate self-help skills, adaptive behavior (other than in social interaction), and curiosity about the environment in childhood.

Criteria are not met for another specific Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Schizophrenia.

Asperger's Disorder is a life long developmental disability that currently has no known cure. It is considered to be on the Autism Spectrum Disorder continuum and affects the individual's ability to interact socially and develop a broad range of interests and activities.

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH ASPERGER'S DISORDER

- may be quite verbal
- speech may be marked by poor prosody (inflection and intonation)
- may talk incessantly about favorite topic without awareness of listener's interest (one-sided conversational style)
- may have difficulty understanding another person's perspective (theory of mind)
- may have difficulty understanding nonverbal communication
- may have difficulty understanding abstract language and concepts
- may have limited or poor eye contact
- may have deficits in fine and gross motor skills
- may have difficulty integrating information or performing more than one task at a time
- may have sensory integration difficulties (over or under sensitive to sound, light, smell or touch)
- often have excellent memories
- often excel in reading and visual spatial skills
- often have above average intelligence
- often have exceptional creative abilities



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! CONTACT US AT:
PHONE: 1-800-273-5200
E-MAIL: ASM@ASMONLINE.ORG
OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.ASMONLINE.ORG