



## Recognizing Autism / ASD Symptoms, Signs and Characteristics

Here are a few common signs. Not all individuals on the Autism Spectrum have all of these challenges

### **A person with an ASD might:**

1. Avoid eye contact and want to be alone.
2. Have trouble understanding other people's feelings or talking about their own feelings.
3. Have delayed speech and language skills.
4. Repeat words or phrases over and over (echolalia).
5. Give unrelated answers to questions.
6. Get upset by minor changes.
7. Have narrow, sometimes obsessive special interests.
8. Develop repetitive movements for self-regulation (i.e. flicking, flapping, humming). Flap their hands, rock their body, or spin in circles.
9. Have unusual or very intense sensory reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste and textures.

### **Children and adults with ASD or Asperger syndrome in addition might:**

1. Have a hard time understanding body language or reading social cues or norms.
2. Have challenges understanding personal space.
3. Avoid eye contact or stare intently.
4. Want to be alone or may want to interact, but do not know how to do so effectively.
5. Speak in unusual ways or with an odd tone of voice.
6. Have a difficult time making and keeping friends.
7. Seem nervous in large social groups.
8. Be clumsy or physically awkward.
9. Have challenges with gross motor skills such as poor handwriting or learning to ride a bike.
10. Have rituals that they refuse to change, such as a very rigid bedtime routine.



[www.AutismandScouting.org](http://www.AutismandScouting.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/autismandscouting>

Email - [scouting@autismempowerment.org](mailto:scouting@autismempowerment.org)