

SOCIAL INTERACTION

An autistic person may:

- **Desire social interaction but be socially naive/awkward in group activities.**
- **Lack reciprocity (socially unresponsive-appearing aloof and indifferent).**
- **Have limited or unusual use of nonverbal communication.**
- **Dwell on the same topics and interests.**
- **Have difficulty knowing the intentions and beliefs of others.**
- **Have difficulty with subtle social rules that change with each situation.**
- **Have difficulty making and keeping friends.**
- **Not recognize the lies, deceptions and misbehavior of others.**
- **Appear to have subtle “quirks” that peer group finds unacceptable.**
- **Not know how his actions affect others.**
- **Be confused about aspects of dating.**
- **Lie to avoid situations that are overwhelming.**
- **Be teased and bullied by peers.**
- **Be totally honest and consider all words that are spoken are true.**
- **Struggle with social imagination (role play/storytelling) and humor.**

Social Executive Function

Various types of information must be processed and responded to within a 1-2 second time frame.

One: Consideration and adjustment of one's own thoughts and emotions and those of a communication partner.

Two: Consideration and evaluation of one's own beliefs and those of a communication partner.

Three: Consideration and adjustment of one's response based on prior knowledge or experience of a communication partner.

Four: Consideration and adjustment based on the motives and intentions of a communication partner.

Nonverbal Communication

eye gaze,
facial expressions,
body language, gestures
tone of voice

Social Imagination

role play/storytelling
with
puppets, costumes,
stuffed animals, and dolls