

Autism is a spectrum disorder that varies in degree from mild to severe, and is increasingly being referred to as **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**.

The following are diagnostic terms used by health care professionals for evaluations (medical, psychological, speech & language):

- Autistic Disorder
- Asperger Syndrome (AS)
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD)
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)

There is a lack of uniformity among medical professionals in the use of these diagnostic terms. Many use them interchangeably or inconsistently.

Adding to the confusion for parents, educators and professionals, students with ASD may be educationally classified with any of the following:

- Autism
- Other Health Impairment
- Emotional Disturbance
- Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Multiple Disabilities

However, Part 200.13 of the Commissioner's Regulations provide specific special education services, including parent training, pertaining to those with an autism classification.

ASD is quite paradoxical: as much as individuals on the spectrum are alike, they are at the same time, very different. *Each individual on the spectrum is unique.* As author Stephen Shore noted, "When you have met one person on the autism spectrum, then you have met **one** person on the autism spectrum."

We encourage our members to attend our support meetings, educational presentations and conferences. Together we help raise awareness of the needs of individuals with ASD and their families; we acquire, share and disseminate current, accurate and relevant information in the on-going effort to support each other and those with ASD.

Those with ASD may exhibit some of the following:

SOCIALIZATION:

- awkward and clumsy
- naïve and gullible
- poor eye contact
- difficulty developing peer relationships
- at risk of victimization (bullying) by peers
- inappropriate body language or facial expression
- problems recognizing the nuances of social interaction
- difficulty understanding other's feelings or emotions, but once aware will have an appropriate degree of compassion

COMMUNICATION:

- inability to maintain reciprocal (give and take) conversation
- extreme literal use and interpretation of language
- unusual speech patterns: repetitive speech, abnormal tone and/or volume, irrelevant remarks, stilted/formal manner, tendency to lecture others

BEHAVIOR & THOUGHT:

- easily upset by changes in routine
- rigid, ritualistic behavioral patterns
- fixation on one subject or object
- repetitive movements, thoughts and/or speech
- peculiar eating patterns

COMMON ASSOCIATED BEHAVIORS:

- emotional sensitivity and under/overreaction
- fears and anxiety
- hyper/hypo-sensitivity to sensory stimuli (sounds, light, taste, touch, odors, pain)
- physical awkwardness
- problems with spatial awareness
- creative thinking and unconventional problem solving
- exceptional skills (e.g., memory, music, art, math)
- sleeping difficulties

AHA/AS/PDD Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone No.: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____@_____

Parent ____ Teacher ____ Other _____

Professional (Please state area of expertise)

Name of Individual with ASD: _____

_____ D.O.B.: _____

If a child:

School District: _____

School Placement (if out of district):

If an adult:

Living: with parent(s)____ group residence____
independent____ other _____

Work: full time _____ part time ____
independent____ job coach ____

Other _____

I give my permission for my name and phone number to be shared with other parents who may have similar concerns.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Yearly dues are \$25.00 Please mail this application with your check, payable to AHA/AS/PDD, to:

AHA/AS/PDD
P.O. Box 475
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577-0475

AHA/AS/PDD is a not-for profit organization.
We gratefully accept (tax-deductible) donations.

Any questions?
e-mail Pat Schissel at : PatS@aha-as-pdd.org
or call one of the numbers on this brochure.



AHA/AS/PDD Vision:

Our primary purpose is to support one another as we advocate for the unique needs of children and adults with ASD.

AHA/AS/PDD Goals:

- To increase awareness and knowledge about ASD among the professionals who diagnose, treat, educate or provide services.
- To promote appropriate educational programs, effective social skills training, increased social and recreational activities, meaningful employment, and sufficient and satisfactory independent living accommodations for those with ASD.
- To develop a strong network of parents supporting one another through the challenges of daily life.
- To provide parents and professionals with a useful forum where they can exchange pertinent information.

AHA/AS/PDD Offers:

- monthly parent support meetings: daytime, evening, and older teen/adult
- monthly support meetings for adults with HFA/AS
- guest speakers on topics relevant to ASD
- our website with valuable information and resources (www.aha-as-pdd.org)
- twice yearly educational conferences designed to bring the most current information and strategies to professionals
- our quarterly newsletter, *On The Spectrum*, (members only)
- our lending library (members only)
- e-mail notification of the most recent information and events about ASD
- recreational activities for families

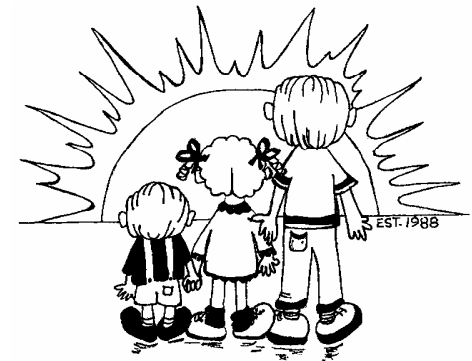
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577-0475

AHA/AS/PDD
P.O. Box 475



Advocates for Individuals with High Functioning Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and other Pervasive Developmental Disorders

(a not-for-profit corporation)



AHA/AS/PDD

516.484.8404 phone/fax
www.aha-as-pdd.org
info@aha-as-pdd.org

Support Meetings

for parents:

Nassau	516.484.8404
Suffolk	631.363.6033
Older Teen/Adult	631.269.5709
East End	631.734.7082

for adults with HFA/AS:

GRASP/AHA	646.242.4003
-----------	--------------

Roslyn Heights, NY 11577-0475

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 415