

Characteristics of Gifted/Asperger's Syndrome Youth

- Poor nonverbal communication skills
- Lack of coordination
- Exceptional memory
- Normal to high IQ
- Poor sense of time
- Inflexibility
- Difficulty transitioning between tasks
- Inability to explain their feelings and those of others
- Poor social skills

Screening and Identification Procedures for Gifted/Asperger's Syndrome Youth

- Inform parents and teachers about gifted/AS children
- Use screening tools specifically designed to help identify AS
 - *Asperger's Syndrome Diagnostic Scale* (can be purchased at www.superduperinc.com/TUV_Pages/tm185.htm)
 - *Australian Scale for Asperger's Syndrome* (obtain a free copy at www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/aspergerscaleAttwood.html)
 - *Gilliam Asperger Disorder Scale* (Pro-ed)
- Employ a team approach
- Construct a developmental history
- Utilize standardized intelligence tests

Instructional Strategies for Gifted/Asperger's Syndrome Youth

- Establish a daily routine
- Avoid sarcasm
- Teach students to deal with sudden change
- Develop social skills
- Provide a rubric when asking essay questions
- Develop an IEP that addresses student's strengths and weaknesses
- Include parents, clinical professionals, and student when making decisions about educational programming
- Provide hands-on activities
- Arrange the room so that the gifted/AS child is near few distractions