

ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

Asperger's syndrome is four times as likely to appear in males as in females.

Other characteristics include:

- * Normal or superior intelligence.
- * Clumsy, poor handwriting.
- * Ritual behavior such as flapping of the arms, pacing, or jumping in place, particularly when the child is excited or upset.
- * A tendency to be very verbal.
- * Peculiarities of speech including talking too loudly, having problems taking turns during a conversation, exhibiting poor eye contact, or having unusual variations in the pitch and rhythm of speech (for example, sounding robotic or pedantic).
- * Circumscribed, often factual interest in a particular topic and a tendency to talk about it for long periods of time.
- * Tendency to miss social cues.
- * Becoming upset if routines or expectations are violated.
- * Anxiety during transitions or when new things are encountered.
- * Auditory and visual-spatial processing problems.
- * Significant classroom learning disability.