

Impairments of Autism



rdi[®]
FACT SHEET

EVERY CHILD ON THE SPECTRUM IS DIFFERENT AND CAN HAVE SYMPTOM VARIATIONS BUT THERE ARE SIMILARITIES SEEN IN ALL CHILDREN ON THE SPECTRUM, KNOWN AS CORE COGNITIVE DEFICITS



DEVELOPMENT IN EACH OF THESE AREAS HAS BEEN CLOSELY TIED TO PARTICIPATION IN A GUIDING RELATIONSHIP

ASD a New Perspective

Research findings have converged on several areas of functioning that appear to be universally impaired in children, teens and adults with ASD. Each of these areas are extremely important for successful real-world functioning. The combined impact of these impairments explains the inability of ASD persons (including those with above average IQ's) to achieve autonomy, obtain satisfactory employment and maintain meaningful interpersonal relationships. If you are not remediating these deficits you are not remediating autism!

- 1. Dynamic Analysis or Appraisal:** This is the ability to assess a situation and decide how to respond based on the information you have available, your personal needs and your goals. *This can cause a person to have inflexible rules about the way things are done.*
- 2. Experience Sharing:** Some people with ASD are able to recall and share facts about past events, but they are unable to share that experience with another or themselves. *They can not recall the emotional ties attached to the events or be able to relate to someone else's experiences.*
- 3. Self-awareness:** This is the important sense of personal identity. *This can result in the lack of understanding of how emotions and actions impact the self and others.*
- 4. Creative thinking:** This is the ability to integrate information from different sources and situations and formulate 'good enough' solutions to real life problems. *This can cause difficulties accepting change and/or making adjustments based on changing information.*
- 5. Episodic memory:** This is the representation we form of an event in our lives, rooted around the emotions experienced. *Without episodic memory, there is difficulty learning from past experiences and connecting the present and the future, which limits personal memories.*