

# SIGNS OF AUTISM: a guide for librarians



Lack of Eye Contact



Flapping, Flicking, Spinning



Sensitive to Touch



May Appear Stubborn/Resistant



Scripting Words, Phrases, Noises



Processing Delays



## Repetitive Behaviors

- Flapping, flicking, spinning, rocking
- Focuses on one topic/detail that is unrelated to the conversation
- Scripting or repeating sounds (e.g. *repeat lines of a television show or movie*)



## Mental Processes

- Displays poor impulse control (e.g. *constantly touching an object despite being told/given consequences*)
- Processing delay/Unable to follow a chain of commands (e.g. *put your coat on the chair, sit down, and put your phone on the table*)



## Sensory Behaviors

- May be sensitive to touch especially if unexpected
- Overwhelmed by sensory environment (e.g. *covers ears, eyes, nose*)



## Social Communication

- Flat vocal affect (e.g. *voice stays at one tone with little to no inflection*)
- Unusual facial grimaces
- Avoidance of eye contact or blank stare throughout conversation
- Individual has no friends or is socially isolated
- May appear stubborn, defiant, or non-compliant with requests
- Atypical or stiff body language flat facial expressions.
- Overly literal interpretation of questions
- Increased aggravation/anxiety during interview
- Overly agreeable
- Appears to have a lack of sympathy or empathy



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