

## Schooling

Some students attend local schools and work with the special education teacher to develop coping and communication skills. These skills help the students overcome their frustrations and express their feelings.

Some students may attend a school that provides a very structured, predictable routine. The same routine everyday allows the student to concentrate on their work rather than trying to adjust to a new activity.

## Common Characteristics of Autism

- Lack of social interaction
- Misunderstandings of ideas
- Touching objects repeatedly
- Little expression of feelings or ideas
- Does not like to be touched

Not all people with autism have these characteristics. Each person with autism acts differently.

Autism is a disability that begins with the brain. The brain has an incorrect connection with the rest of the body and may cause the person difficulty communicating or expressing feelings and ideas to others. Aspergers is a type of autism.

There is no known cause for autism. The way the brain develops and a baby's environment before it is born may play a factor in a child being born with autism. Doctors cannot diagnose autism at birth. Instead, doctors watch the child's behaviors to decide if they have autism.

People with autism like structure and routine. Their schedule must be the same everyday or the person may have difficulty with changes.