Margaret J. Kay, Ed.D.

...Specializing in the recognition & understanding of individual differences...

Asperger's syndrome (AS) is a neurobiological disorder that is part of a group of diagnoses called "*Autistic-spectrum disorders*." The term "*autistic spectrum*" refers to a range of developmental disabilities that includes autism as well as other disorders with similar characteristics. They are known as ***spectrum disorders*** because the symptoms of each can appear in different combinations and in varying degrees of severity. That means that two individuals with the same diagnosis may share certain patterns of behavior but exhibit a wide range of varying skills and abilities. People with AS share many of the same symptoms as those with "*high-functioning autism.*"

When you've met one person with AS, you've met one person with an Autistic-Spectrum disorder.

The following are some signs and ***symptoms*** that may be present in a person with AS:

- Inappropriate or minimal social interaction
- Circumscribed areas of interest
- Scripted or "bookish" speech
- Lack of "*common sense*"
- Poor pragmatic and social language skills
- Difficulty with the give-&-take of conversation
- Poor critical thinking & comprehension
- Obsessive interest in complex topics or music
- Strong literal verbal thinking skills
- Weak nonverbal cognitive abilities
- Awkward motor movements
- Odd behaviors or mannerisms
- Sensory sensitivities
- Rigid adherence to specific routines
- Difficulty with transitions
- Poor organization skills
- Literal interpretation of language

Margaret J. Kay, Ed.D. Licensed Psychologist
Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)

2818 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, PA
17601-3322

Phone: **717-569-6223**
Fax: **717-560-9931**
Email: **mjk@margaretkay.com**
Web: **www.margaretkay.com**

Autistic-Spectrum & Asperger's Syndrome Diagnostic Services

Margaret J. Kay, Ed.D.
PA & DE Licensed Psychologist
Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)

...Specializing in the recognition and understanding of individual differences.

Tel: 717-569-6223

Independent Educational Evaluations for Students with AS disorders

Typically, an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) requires three to four hours of testing time and breaks, depending upon the age and functioning level of the student.

During testing, every effort is made to help the student feel comfortable. Although many children with Asperger's (AS) experience anxiety with the change of routine and the prospects of being tested, experience shows that most AS children actually enjoy the testing process.

In the majority of cases, a comprehensive assessment involves history taking, psychological assessment, communications testing, social & emotional evaluation, recommendations for program planning and parent consultation.

When you've met one child with AS, you've met one child with AS. Testing clarifies the needs of the *individual*.

Evaluations for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome

Adults with AS possess unique strengths and needs that impact daily life at home, in the workplace and in the social realm. Some adults with AS are successful in their careers but are lonely and isolated socially. Some have never left their parents' homes and have had difficulty transitioning to independent living. Others have difficulty with post-secondary education, maintaining competitive employment and developing adequate coping skills for independent living.

The goal of assessment is to provide a coherent view of the person that is easily understood, detailed, concrete & realistic . Recommendations are provided for day-to-day adaptation, learning, independent living and vocational training.

Specializing in the recognition and understanding of individual differences...

Treatment & Intervention

Treatment of AS is supportive and based upon the individual 's strengths and needs. The purpose of all assessment is not to just provide a diagnosis but to offer a clear ***blueprint*** for intervention and comprehensive program planning. For most children & adults this includes:

- Acquisition of basic skills in social interaction & adaptive functioning,
- Development of pragmatic & social language skills,
- Remediation of academic skill deficits,
- Teaching effective problem-solving strategies,
- Improving gross– and fine-motor functioning,
- Teaching the use of effective assistive technologies to compensate for skill deficiencies,
- Improving visual-spatial concept formation,
- Treating secondary emotional symptoms, including depression & anxiety.

Margaret J. Kay, Ed.D. Licensed Psychologist
Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)

2818 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, PA
17601-3322

Phone: **717-569-6223**
FAX: **717-560-9931**
Email: **mjk@margaretkay.com**
Web: **www. margaretkay.com**