



INFORMATION SHEET

Age Group: **Children / Adolescents and Young Adults / Adults**

Sheet Title: **An introduction to Asperger's Syndrome**

Asperger's Syndrome is characterised by difficulty with four main areas:

1. Social Interaction
2. Social Communication
3. Imagination (e.g. trying to imagine what others are thinking)
4. Sensory Sensitivity (e.g. to bright light, noise, textures, tastes, touch, smells)
5. Motor skills
6. Organisational ability

Lorna Wing (Burgoine and Wing, 1983) described the main clinical features of AS as:

- Lack of empathy
- Naive, inappropriate, one-sided interaction
- Little or no ability to form friendships
- Pedantic, repetitive speech
- Poor nonverbal communication
- Intense absorption in certain subjects
- Clumsy and ill-co-ordinated movements and odd postures



These are the positive traits commonly associated with AS:

- Honesty
- Reliability
- Dedication
- Determination

Tony Attwood has described Asperger's Syndrome as: *"a different way of approaching life, one that is dominated by the pursuit of knowledge and truth"*.

He also says that great advances in science and art have been attributable to people with Asperger's Syndrome.