

# Glossary

## Asperger's Syndrome

---

### What is Asperger's Syndrome?

This condition was first identified in 1944 by Hans Asperger. He described a group of children with autistic behaviour and thinking, who, generally, had good intellectual and linguistic abilities.

### Changes to the definition of ASDs

However, as part of the revisions to the clinical guidelines in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders [DSM-V] and ICD-10 in 2013, extensive changes were made to the definition of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

One key change was that previously distinct autism subtypes were collapsed – including autistic disorder, PDD-NOS and Asperger syndrome – into one unifying diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Please see Afasic's Glossary Sheet "Autism Spectrum Disorders" for further information.

### Assessment and intervention

For evidence based clinical guidance and information go to National Institute for Health and Care Excellence <https://www.nice.org.uk/>

### References

**American Psychiatric Association** (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders*. (5th ed.). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing. <https://psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/dsm/educational-resources/dsm-5-fact-sheets> for further information and an ASD factsheet download

### Further reading including online resources

**Attwood T** (2006) *The complete guide to Asperger Syndrome*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers

**Nottingham City Asperger Service** (2011) *Being different: living life with Asperger Syndrome*. NCAS, tel. 0115 854 2207 for more information

**Rears D and Mears H** (2015) *The missing piece: how to easily motivate someone with Asperger's (and the huge mistake most parents make that hinders their Asperger child's growth)*

**World Health Organisation** (1992). ICD-10 *Classifications of mental and behavioural disorder: clinical descriptions and diagnostic guidelines*

The Autism Centre at Sheffield Hallam University blog: <https://theautismcentre.wordpress.com/author/autismcentre/>

The Autism journal has recently launched an informative series of podcasts, available at: <http://researchautism.net/autism/autism-resources/autism-podcasts>

The Research Autism website [www.researchautism.net](http://www.researchautism.net)

**Please note: Afasic does not hold copies of any referenced material. These publications should be available at academic libraries.**

## **Other organisations which can help**

### **The National Autistic Society**

<http://www.autism.org.uk/>

### **Autism Education Trust**

<http://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/>

### **Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists**

<https://www.rcslt.org/>

## **Acknowledgements**

Information and references: University of Sheffield, Dr Judy Clegg, Dr Tom Muskett, and Dr Jenny Thomson, 2016.

*Written by Zein Pereira, speech and language therapist*

© Afasic 2017

**Afasic**

**E-mail: [info@afasic.org.uk](mailto:info@afasic.org.uk)**

**Tel: 020 7490 9410**

**Helpline: 0300 666 9410**

**[www.afasic.org.uk](http://www.afasic.org.uk)**

**Registered charity no. 1045617**

