

AUTISM AND ADHD

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

May enjoy following routines closely and may find comfort in repeating routines

Social communication challenges related to struggles reading social cues (e.g., facial expressions), interpreting and inferencing in social interactions

Frequently focus on a specific interest, activity, or event

Language regression in early childhood

May demonstrate differences in play skills; characterized by increased amounts of solitary play, repetitive or ritualized play, may show difficulty understanding or desiring symbolic or pretend play

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

May struggle to stick with routines; often demonstrates a preference for novelty.

Social communication challenges related to impulsivity and attention (such as turn taking)

May demonstrate differences in play skills; characterized by more parallel and less cooperative play, more functional and sensorimotor play, and decreased amounts of play relating to falling off topic or being distracted

May demonstrate hyperactivity, impulsivity, restlessness, and/or inattentiveness

Creative
Sensory differences
Fidgeting and Stimming
Difficulty in task switching
Use masking/camouflaging
Difficulty with emotional regulation
Both are neurodevelopmental disorders, and they can co-exist
Engage passionately in preferred interests
Difficulty with sleep
May demonstrate difficulty with motor control
Eye contact can be limited

SOURCES:

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