

Shared Traits

High Intelligence and Autism.



Similarities

Anxiety

Social Difficulties

Special or Unusual Interests

Meltdowns

Crashing

Sensitivities

Difference in cause

Symptoms	A.S.D	High I.Q
Anxiety	Change of routine such as exams or school trips.	Over-thinking or a fear of failure.
Social Difficulties	Play is repetitive, object based, lacking in imagination.	Lack of people on their level. Play is more sophisticated and complex.
Special or Unusual Interests	Tend to be long-term and all consuming.	Will do a topic to death then move on to something else.
Meltdowns	Overload. Too much going on or too far out of their comfort zone.	Frustration. An old head on young shoulders.
Crashing	Overload or lack of understanding of what is required.	Over-thinking or anxiety. Emotional understanding can't keep up with head.
Sensitivities	Difficulty integrating information from senses (e.g. lack of awareness of heat, cold, pain, thirst, hunger)	Lack of filtering? Ability to 'take-in' more information due to working memory and speed of processing.

Differences in Presentation

A.S.D.	High I.Q.
Lack of flexibility of thought and behaviour	What if?
Repetitive use of language.	Love of words, sounds and meanings. Why use one word when you can use 10 long ones?

Managing Symptoms

Symptoms	A.S.D	High I.Q
Anxiety	Pre-warn of change. Keep it simple and manageable.	Use humour. What's the worst that could happen?
Social Difficulties	Peer support. Buddy system. People watching. Social stories.	Mixing with other bright children. People watch. Social stories
Special or Unusual Interests	Be blunt not unkind. Opportunity to follow interests. Like minds. Meeting experts.	Handle sensitively. Opportunity to follow interests. Like minds. Meeting experts.
Meltdowns	Stop talking. Reduce stimulus. Treat the meerkat.	Stop talking. Reduce stimulus. Treat the meerkat.
Crashing	Stop talking. Reduce stimulus. Treat the meerkat.	Stop talking. Reduce stimulus. Treat the meerkat.
Sensitivities	Find out about and anticipate issues.	Work out ways to lessen sensitivities. Teach the child to modify their environment.

Summary

If you are not suitably qualified, it is dangerous and unprofessional to make a judgement about a child based on your observation. It is even worse to share these thoughts with the parents.

If you have concerns or suspicions, share your thoughts with a professional. SenCo, G.P., or Educational Psychologist and provide evidence to back up your thoughts.

<https://giftedhomeschoolers.org/defining-giftedness/neuroscience-giftedness-physiology-brain/greater-sensory-sensitivity/>

http://bacdis.org.uk/membership/documents/Coventry_Grid.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKlzd-H2X9w>