

## Case Study: ADHD vs ASD vs ADHD and ASD (Part 2)

### ASD Interview:

MP is still inconsistent with her use of eye contact especially when parents approach and call her name or talk to her. She does coordinate use of gestures and words such as waving bye and saying "bye," pointing and saying "look Mommy." She also shows a range of emotions that generally match the situation, however, usually shows the extremes of emotion. She also occasionally will still grab an adult's hand and move it to indicate what she wants.

A favorite activity is playing with toy animals. She makes their sounds and has them talk to each other. She will even act like a dog and eat dog food off of the floor. She is always trying to get attention, trying to get someone to do something with her, however, is generally directive in her interactions, telling family members what to do. She is beginning to recognize emotion of family members and will occasionally do something to comfort her Mom. She rarely asks questions and cannot take turns in a conversation.

She is interested in other children, will go right over, join other children in the park and try to direct the play. Typically this lasts only a short while and then she goes off by herself. She talks about her 3 year old cousin but has no regular friends or playmates.

MP does have echolalia at times and uses pat phrases. She has an unusual quality to her voice like she is playing a role (unusual intonation), and she speaks loudly. She likes to spin and has repetitive play such as opening and closing boxes and turning lights on and off. MP also plays with rocks or gravel by talking to it and repetitively putting it in and pouring it out of cups and shoes.

She has a markedly selective diet with few fruits and veggies. Is sensitive to the appearance of food and takes apart food to its different components, for example a sandwich. She is directive in her play and gets upset if other children or family members do not follow their assigned roles. She repeatedly asks about small changes such as driving a different way and she showed marked decreased appetite and sleep and increase in tantrums with the family's move to another community. The parents commented the move "really messed her up." Parents also report she walks in a pattern at times, for example, around the perimeter of a room.

She has sensory seeking behavior. She especially likes vestibular activities such as the swing. She needs to touch everything and may lick toys and non-edible items. MP is sensitive to loud sounds and to light touch but likes deep pressure. MP also is attracted to items that are shiny or light up.