

Autism Jeopardy!

Autism Jeopardy is an activity that provides an opportunity to discuss common questions children and teens might have after receiving a diagnosis of Autism. The game format allows this discussion to occur in an engaging and fun way. The predetermined set of questions also structures the conversation in a way that avoids relying on the child to come up with and ask their own questions about autism.

Game set up:

- 1) Determine if you want to use the cards with the word "autism" or "Asperger's Syndrome." Some families prefer to use the word Asperger's Syndrome instead of autism as many people associate the label Asperger's Syndrome with individuals at the higher functioning range of functioning.
- 2) Cut the cards out, choose the ones you want to include in the game (you may choose to leave out certain questions and answer depending on the child's needs), and divide them by question and answer.
- 3) Divide the answer cards into 4 piles and label the back of the cards with dollar amounts \$100-\$400.

Playing the game:

- 1) Choose a game host (usually a clinician or a parent).
- 2) At least two other players are needed: the child with autism and another person.
- 3) The purpose of the game is to accumulate the most money.
- 4) Decide who will go first. Read all the questions so that the players are familiar with their options.
- 5) During each turn, a player chooses card of a specific a dollar amount. The game host reads the answer and the player must choose the question that corresponds to the answer.

For example, the child chooses a \$300 card. The host says:

"Scientists do not yet know the cause of Asperger's Syndrome, and are still trying to figure this out. People are born with Asperger's Syndrome just like some people are born with brown hair or freckles."

The child must guess the correct question that corresponds to the answer: "What causes Asperger's Syndrome"

- 6) Each person takes turns while the host tallies the points. The person with the most money at the end wins.

Q

WHAT IS ASPERGER'S SYNDROME?

Asperger's Syndrome effects the way the brain is formed and makes people have differences in how they communicate (talk to) and interact (get along) with others. It can also cause people to have certain behaviors and interests that are different than the general population.

Q

WHAT CAUSES ASPERGER'S SYNDROME?

Scientists do not yet know the cause of Asperger's Syndrome, and are still trying to figure this out. People are born with Asperger's Syndrome just like some people are born with brown hair or freckles.

Q

WHAT ARE PEOPLE WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME LIKE WHEN THEY GROW UP?

People with Asperger's Syndrome learn and grow as they get older just like everyone else. People with Asperger's Syndrome can go to college, get married, get a job, or have a family if they want.

Q

ARE ALL PEOPLE WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME THE SAME?

Not all people with Asperger's Syndrome are the same. They have different interests and things they are good at. Most are very smart, though, and they share differences in the way they communicate and interact with others.

Q

IS THE TERM ASPERGER'S SYNDROME THE SAME THING AS AUTISM?

Scientists and doctors now use the term "Autism Spectrum Disorder" to identify all people who have differences in how they communicate and interact with others. Asperger's Syndrome is not an official term anymore, but it was used to identify people with ASD who are very smart and good at speaking and learning.

Q

WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT HAVING ASPERGER'S SYNDROME?

Many people with Asperger's Syndrome:

- Are very smart
- Are experts in things that interest them
- Are honest and loyal
- Have an excellent memory
- Are not as prone to peer pressure
- Excel at mechanical and logical thinking

Q

WHAT ARE CHALLENGES OF PEOPLE WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME?

Many people with Asperger's Syndrome: have difficulty:

- Making new friends
- Having back and forth conversation
- Knowing what others think and feel
- Looking in people's eyes
- Handling changes
- Trying new things

Q

WHO HELPS PEOPLE WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME?

Just like there are coaches for people learning new sports, there are coaches for people to learn communication and interaction skills. These include psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, school "resource" teachers, and social skills tutors. Parents can also teach these skills!

Q

I HAVE ADHD. DO MANY PEOPLE WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME HAVE ADHD TOO?

There are a number of conditions that are common with Asperger's Syndrome including ADHD, anxiety, learning difficulties, sleep problems, stomach/digestion problems, and behavior problems. Not everyone has these, but they are more common than in the general population.

Q

WILL I OUTGROW ASPERGER'S SYNDROME?

Most people have Asperger's Syndrome their whole life, but a very small percentage of people may no longer be identified as having Asperger's Syndrome when they are older.

Q

DOES ASPERGER'S SYNDROME AFFECT ME AT SCHOOL?

Many children with Asperger's Syndrome have difficulty in school such as:

- Learning or doing work in certain subjects like math or language arts
- Doing handwriting or P.E.
- Feeling uncomfortable with noises or crowds of kids
- Having trouble getting along with or talking to others

Q

MY DAD (OR MOM) IS LIKE ME. DOES HE HAVE ASPERGER'S SYNDROME TOO?

A person with Asperger's Syndrome is more likely to have a family member with Asperger's Syndrome. However, most people have at least some symptoms of Asperger's Syndrome, but may not have enough symptoms or strong enough symptoms to be identified as having Asperger's Syndrome.

Q

**WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT HAVING
ASPERGER'S SYNDROME?**

First of all, accept who you are for all your strengths and difficulties!! We are all special in our own unique ways! Secondly, use help that is offered by your parents, teachers, and other coaches. Try your best to learn new skills. Lastly, do not use Asperger's Syndrome as an excuse to get out of things you don't want to do.

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