Autism Spectrum Disorder/Asperger Syndrome Tips & Reminders

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• Routine is important element of disability.
• May have savant or addictive tendencies or desires.
• Very literal, matter-of-fact, they say what they say, may not seem appropriate communication. Socially awkward.
• Lack of inhibitors-Strength can be quick and extremely strong.
• Almost 40% of those with ASD have some type of seizure disorder.
• May have other disabilities to make more complex.
• Check nearby water sources.
  o MANY CANNOT SWIM, BUT DRAWN TO WATER.
• Watch your space as may not have regard for personal space and may try for badge, gun, keys, etc.
• “Stimming”-constant movement (rocking/shaking/screaming).
• Echolalia-repeating what you say using same tone and voice, etc. “More than playful copying.”
• If arrest-watch for positional asphyxia.

Many have food allergies—DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO GIVE A SNACK.

They are easily bullied or taken advantage of.

May have support services. Check on their person (tags, bags, coats, clothes).

• Caregiver
• Individualized Education Plan/Home Care Plan (Personal Care Plan)
• ID Cards/Medical bracelets

Use multiple types of communication.

Use simple commands.

Sign Language and Voice

• Stop Hands!
• Stop Feet!
• Calm Down!

Do not be alarmed by lack of eye contact.

**Allow time for response (some may take a minute or two).