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## GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

### Basic Facts for Leaders

# Autistic Spectrum Disorder



## GENERAL FEATURES

Children and young people with ASD generally display the following:-

- An inability to relate and empathise with others
- Have difficulty understanding others feelings and actions
- Can appear aloof
- May display inappropriate touching or display inappropriate aggression
- Difficulty communicating with others i.e. verbally, using eye contact, facial expression
- Some never develop speech, some experience language delay
- Some have very good language but difficulty understanding
- May develop repetitive, obsessive interests
- Experience distress by changes in routine

Areas of the BB programme which would present difficulty for the child or young person

## ANCHORS

- Crafts – (understanding expectations following instructions)
- Group Activities – (social interactions carrying out turn taking)

## JUNIOR SECTION

- PT/Games
- Badge Work

## COMPANY SECTION

- Badge Work
- PT
- Drill

## USEFUL STRATEGIES

- Provide an individual work space
- Use a visual timetable and task lists

- Always refer to the child by name
- Do not expect eye contact and never turn their face to look at you
- Prepare for changes in advance
- Keep verbal instructions brief and simple
- Always talk to parents
- Consider lighting, noise
- Use stories to explain social communication/instruction

***Please note these are general strategies. Each child or young person is unique. It is therefore important to speak to their parent(s) to gain individual relevant information***

## ASD - THE FACTS

- 1 in every 100 display ASD
- 4 times as many boys display ASD as girls
- Display a "Triad of Impairments"
  - Social Interaction
  - Communication
  - Thought and Imagination
- Children with ASD may also experience any of the following:
  - Hand flapping, rocking
  - Poor sleeping patterns
  - Self injury
  - walking on tip toes
  - Irrational fears or phobias

## USEFUL WEBSITES

The Irish Society for Autism [www.autism.ie](http://www.autism.ie)

Irish Autism Action [www.autismireland.ie](http://www.autismireland.ie)

Disability Advice Network [www.boysbrigade.ie/dan](http://www.boysbrigade.ie/dan)