

Females on the Autism Spectrum

Behaviour

Less prone to act out physically or aggressively

Intense focus on a particular subject, often involving animals or classic literature

Appears anxious when there are changes in routine

Observes human behaviour, learning to mask difficulties

Practices rituals that appear to have no function

May play with dolls or toys well beyond the typical age for these items

Tendency toward perfectionism in certain aspects of her life

High risk of having episodes of eating disorders and self medication

Stimming behaviors, such as hand flapping, rocking, or spinning can appear much milder. They can also be internalised/thoughts instead of external behaviours

May apologise and appease when they make a social error

Often more socially aware and driven

Often more socially aware and driven because it is more commonly seen amongst females on the autism spectrum



Communication

More aware of the need for social interaction

May have an exceptional vocabulary

Tends to mimic rather than providing natural responses

May converse in predictable, "scripted" ways

Seems to struggle with non-verbal aspects of communication, such as body language and tone of voice

May use odd inflection

Appears to have difficulty dealing with unexpected verbal responses

More able to follow social actions through observation

Social

Usually has only one or two close friends at school

May have difficulty fitting in due to clothing and hairstyle choices

May make greater efforts to avoid drawing attention to themselves

Appears excessively shy or avoids interacting with others or making the first move socially

Can be quite controlling in play

Seems uncomfortable during conversation. Can struggle with eye contact

Often "mothered" by others in primary school but bullied in high school

May play appropriately with toys and engage in pretend play or may focus on organizing objects or toys

Often shows empathy and compassion but may be confused by non-verbal social signals

Usually holds it together well while out and explodes at home



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