

08/05/09

Dear Parents of Prep S,

As you may know our son Jake is a pupil in your child's class. Jake is generally a happy child with a bright smiling face and relatively "innocent" outlook on life. But for Jake, he has Asperger Syndrome (A.S.)

Part of this condition is that he has great difficulty in understanding general socialization and communication. The many "unwritten" rules that most children grow to adopt and become part of their everyday life, Jake needs to be taught. Such as:

- Acceptable distance between other persons when speaking to them
- Tone of voice

He however loves many of the activities that most children do. His special interests include, Thomas the Tank, Lego, Mobilo, Kinex and Dinosaurs.

Jake really struggles with conversation and at times often repeats a familiar phrase, knowing he will get a positive response, i.e. "Are you going to school today?", or "Hello Jesse" over and over again. He already knows the answers – but it is just his way of trying to converse.

Routine is very important to Jake, and any unexpected change can really distress him. Thus he may often seem "bossy" and likes to take control of play. We are working on this, as are the teachers with the help of a "Time-timer", encouraging sharing both of toys, and play strategies.

Jake values any friendship that other children show to him, and indeed a lot of his classmates have proved themselves very caring, which we greatly appreciate.

Kerrie and I really appreciate your consideration in helping your child to understand Jake and together we can help him to achieve the best possible.

Kind regards,

P.S. There are books at the school library that will help in explaining A.S. (E.g. All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome)