

## Autism Spectrum Disorder/Asperger Syndrome Tips & Reminders

Rachelle Wright, [rwright@cjtc.wa.gov](mailto:rwright@cjtc.wa.gov)

206-835-7346

- 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.
  - **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).