Central Coherence - Hyperfocusing

What are the differences between the picture on the top from the one on the bottom?
Changing the Paradigm: A Strength-Based Approach

A little about me...
WHERE DOES AUTISM COME FROM?

Where oh where did this autism come from?
Oh where oh where can it be?
With mysteries cut long and eye contact cut short?
Oh where oh where can be from?

A LITTLE ABOUT ME
Introduction

The Autism Bomb — NOT

EXAMINING THE PARAMETERS
Questions to ask regarding possible areas of success

How does the s/he spend most of their time?

Reframe

- Communication
- Socialization
- Restricted Interests

Abilities?
Interests?
Kind of Mind?
Characteristics?

Match to Ad/vocational Possibilities
### Reframing Characteristics — Looking for Strengths

**Robert** — Transportation information to lost patrons at Penn Station

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Employment Implications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Detailed, factual, data-driven, truthful, repetitive, repetitive</td>
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<td>Social Interaction</td>
<td>Limited and predictable</td>
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<td>Restricted Interests</td>
<td>All information is memorized — his coworkers need references</td>
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Because this individual has autism...  

*He outperforms his typical coworkers*

---

### Setting the Stage for Life Long Success

**Interdependence**

**Employment**

**Education**

**Relationships**

**Self-Advocacy**
A CLOSER LOOK AT MY PLACEMENT ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM — 4

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Typical development

Turn over at 8 days

Rapid physical and motor development

Autism bomb hits withdrawal from environment

Tantrums

Early intervention from parents who refuse recommendations for removal from home

Putnam evaluation of atypical development, strong autistic tendencies & psychotic

Condition improves to "neurotic"

The wonderful world of watch motors

Set the Stage for Self-Determination

Acting as the primary casual agent in one's life and making choices and decisions regarding one's quality of life free from undue external influence or interference (Wehmeyer, 1994).

Condition improves to "neurotic"

The wonderful world of watch motors

Which Sets the Stage for Disclosure...
A CLOSER LOOK AT MY PLACEMENT ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM — 6

- Kindergarten
- Social & academic difficulties
- Discovered making a mess of myself while eating BBQ chicken wings
- Loved cats but dogs…
- Yikes bikes!

Disclosure & Advocacy

A CLOSER LOOK AT MY PLACEMENT ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM — 8

- Interests and Strengths
- Cracking rocks
- Special interests in astronomy and weather
- Teacher concerns: reading and math difficulties

AGE
0 1.5 2.5 4 6 8 10 13 19

EVENTS
- Typical development
- Turn over at 8 days
- Rapid physical and motor development
- Autism bomb hits
- Postural evaluation of physical development
- Highly advanced, strong autistic tendencies & psychotic
- Early intervention from parents who refuse recommendations
- Enter Putnam
- Condition improves to "neurotic"
- The wonderful world of watch motors
- Eating baby food
- Kindergarten
- Social & academic difficulties
- Discovered making a mess of myself while eating BBQ chicken wings
- Special interests in astronomy and weather
- Teacher concerns: reading and math difficulties
SPECIAL INTERESTS

An interest of such great intensity that it interferes with daily functioning.

SOME SPECIAL INTERESTS

- airplanes
- astronomy
- bicycles
- earthquakes
- medicine
- chemistry
- mechanics
- electricity
- electronics
- computers
- hardware
- tools
- psychology
- music
- rocks
- geology
- geography
- locks
- cats
- dinosaurs
- watches
- shiatsu
- yoga
- autism


A CLOSER LOOK AT MY PLACEMENT ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM — 10

AGE 0 1.5 2.5 4 6 8 10 13 19

Concern about dropping the letter “e.”

My friend says “he feels like a pizza” and I argue with him that he does not look like a pizza and probably does not feel like one either.
THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM - COMMUNITY

Peter Gerhardt (personal communication, April 2004)

Sam arrives after Bob. What two rules did he break?


Sam arrives after Bob. What two rules did he break?

Laura Jekel, 12/2000

THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM

Practical Solutions for Understanding Unstated Rules in Social Situations

Brenda Myers
Melanie Fabian
Ronda Schelvan

Autism Asperger Publishing Company
A CLOSER LOOK AT MY PLACEMENT ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM — 13

Interests, Relationships & Community

AGE 01.5 2.5 468 10 13 19

S U C C E S S W I T H

A CLOSER LOOK AT MY PLACEMENT ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM — ADULT

Sheltered Workshop for People with Asperger Syndrome
TURNING AWAY FROM CLOSED DOORS TO OPEN ONES

Defining Success

WHAT MIGHT BE LIKE TO HAVE AUTISM?

Let us find out...
Now… Let’s tell a story in a round-robin fashion

Instructions:
All you need to do is relate your sentence to the previous person’s sentence.


---

Now… Let’s tell a story in a round-robin fashion again

**EXCEPT**
- This time… no words can contain the letter “n”
  - No “n” at the beginning, middle, or end

Thanks for your participation!

Stephen Shore
www.autismasperger.net