

Michael

Michael is a fifteen-year old sophomore who was first diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome when he was in second grade. Michael currently attends all regular education classes for all academic subject areas. He reports to a resource room one period a day for support with organizational skills. No special education related services are provided (i.e., speech and language therapy or occupational therapy.)

Michael is a very bright young man. However, he receives mostly C's on his report card due to the fact that 25% of grades for all academic classes are based on homework assignments. Michael has difficulty remembering to write his assignments down in his planner and as a result, often does not turn in homework.

Michael does not have many friends at school. He tends to keep to himself in social situations. He prefers looking at sports magazines and memorizing baseball players' batting statistics rather than socializing with his peers when time allows. When he does converse with his peers, he often tries to dominate the conversations around the topic of sports statistics. Michael exhibits excellent rote memory skills, can quickly memorize the most recent statistics of any major league baseball player, and can easily recall those stats when in conversation. Although this interest is not atypical of peers his same age, he has become obsessed with the topic and incessantly studies newspapers and books whenever possible and often at inappropriate times (i.e., during classes that are not of interest to him).

Michael's mother has recently shared concerns with his teachers that he does not have friends outside of school. He prefers socializing with her and her friends.

Michael often receives disciplinary actions from his teachers due to frequently interrupting the lesson being taught. He often asks off-topic questions or shares unrelated comments, which his teachers find disruptive.

Over the past several weeks, Michael has become increasingly anxious with attending non-academic classes such as physical education. The noise level in gym class is often loud. When participating in team-oriented contact sports, he sits out on the sidelines. When his teacher approaches Michael, he appears agitated and frantically tells the teacher that his peers are intentionally trying to hurt him. His teacher tells him they are just playing, but Michael escalates his argument and eventually stomps off and leaves the gym. His teacher feels that Michael is over exaggerating and is choosing not to participate. He thinks Michael is just a "sore loser."