ASD-Related Factors Impacting Development of Relationships, Gender Identity, and Sexuality

**Social/Emotional**
- Social communication
- Taking others' perspectives
- Empathy
- Emotional control
- Connection/attachment
- Boundary awareness
- Reading social cues and contexts
- Understanding nonverbal cues

**Cognitive**
- Ability to adapt to change
- Literal thinking
- Understanding consequences of actions
- Perfectionistic
- Executive functions
- Logical/fact-oriented
- Abstract language
- Intellectual development
- Communication skills

**Co-Morbid**
- Anxiety
- Depression
- OCD
- ADHD
- Bipolar Disorder
- ODD

**Regulation**
- Sensory processing
- Ability to self-calm
- Sleep
- Food intolerance/aversion
- Fine motor skills
- Gross motor skills
- Interoception

**Behavioral**
- Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities
- Perseveration/getting stuck
- Frustration tolerance
- Need for consistency and control
- Internet use
- Discrepancy between physical and social/emotional development

**Environmental**
- Social rejection and isolation
- Ableism/”infantilization”
- Lack of Sex Education
- Lack of training for caregivers and other professionals