

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/"infantalization"
- Lack of Sex Education
- Lack of training for caregivers and other professionals

