

# Module 8: Communication and Visual Supports

## Difficulties in Social Interactions Face by People with Autism and Asperger Syndrome:

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- They may have difficulties participating in a reciprocal conversation and may prefer to discuss only the topics that they are interested in.
- They find it difficult to pick up on social cues, like for example when someone uses subtle social cues to indicate that they do not want to talk to them any longer.
  - The social cues in this situation would be: moving away, talking to another person, and bored facial expression.
- They may have issues with personal space and stand too close to others making them uncomfortable.
- They may be inappropriate by commenting on how someone looks or by dismissing another person's point of view (e.g., pointing out a spot on someone's face).
- Many people with High Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome suffer with social anxiety and these anxieties prevent them from engaging socially.
- Some people with HFA and Asperger Syndrome may have been bullied or had a difficult time with school or elsewhere and do not have the level of self-confidence or self-esteem to engage with others on a social level.