

Student profile example - James

James is Year 10. He has pervasive developmental disorder.

He has sociable with a good sense of humour. He likes to be with his classmates, and to be seen to be like everyone else. He likes to know what is going around on him and to be prepared, so responds well to routine. He needs to know the school environment well so he is confident to move independently to classrooms, sports or any other activities.

He is quick at processing information when it is presented to him visually, but finds retaining information and recording his ideas a challenge. Sometimes it is hard for those around him to understand what he is saying. When he writes (at around 8wpm) he often forms letters poorly, omits words and his spelling and punctuation leave a lot to be desired.

James wrote this to his teachers:

Hi, my name is James and I will be in your class. I would like to tell you some things about me that may help us to get along better.

I am not being rude, but I find it easier to not look directly at you when you speak. Although it may appear that I am not listening to what you say I am. I find I can concentrate better on the message if I only have to listen rather than look and listen.

I am good at maths and computer stuff but do not enjoy reading, writing and spelling.

I can work in groups but most times find working alone easier. Friends are very important to me, but I don't find making them easy. I might need some friends to help me find my way around the school, especially if there is a change to usual routines.

I hate to be made to look different from everyone else and constantly strive to fit in.

James' Mum wrote

James has always managed in the classroom environment with minimal help, and has managed to cope well when his ways of learning are understood. Morning tea and lunch time can be times of stress for James, as the rules and structures of the classroom aren't there in the same way.

He hates being made to feel different to others and has worked out strategies so he can cope in the classroom. He thinks a little differently to most people and often has strong opinions and ways. He can find it a little difficult to grasp that others think or work differently to himself.