

LANGUAGE PARAMETERS

An autistic person may:

- **Have language development that is delayed.**
- **Have expressive language skills that imply a greater receptive language ability than is present.**
- **Have a lowered depth of meaning for specific words (secondary meaning).**
- **Have a less expansive breath of vocabulary (verbal repertoire).**
- **Have difficulty with figurative language (idioms, metaphors, similes, irony).**
- **Have fewer alternative meanings for vocabulary words.**
- **Have a more literal understanding of suggestions, directions, or information.**
- **Have difficulty detecting the main idea, drawing conclusions, and making inferences in conversation, text, TV, and movies.**
- **Have difficulty appreciating humor in TV, movies, cartoons, and interactions with others.**
- **Have difficulty responding to wh- questions.**
- **Have difficulty with embedded and subordinate clauses in complex sentence structures.**
- **Derive meaning from a key word rather than the grammar of a sentence.**
- **Decode and fluently read aloud but be unable to comprehend text.**
- **Have difficulty connecting idea to idea in conversation and text.**
- **Have difficulty with processing speed when listening to spoken messages.**
- **Have difficulty attending to spoken messages.**
- **Benefit from augmentative devices for speech and writing.**

Syntax

The formation/structure
of sentences
(grammar).

Semantics

The meaning of words,
sentences, and connected
utterances.

Pragmatics

The use of language in
various contexts and
media formats.