

Summary of some main Female/Male differences

Usually a little more expressive in face and gesture than male counterparts.

Better at mirroring than males and so may mirror many different types of personalities. Hence, females may not have a strong sense of identity and can be very chameleon-like, especially before diagnosis.

Will have obsessions but they are not as abstruse or unusual as her male counterpart's and tend to be more practical. (e.g. less likely to be a 'trainspotter'.)

More open to talking about feelings and emotional issues than males with AS.

Less likely to receive early, correct diagnosis because the criteria is based on male behaviors/traits. (Hans Asperger studied males only.) More likely to be diagnosed as bi-polar or manic depressive (common comorbids of autism/AS).

Physical gestures/behaviors when happy more expressive than males: hand flapping, clapping, singing, jumping up and down, running around, dancing, bouncing – this pertains to adult women as well as girls.

Adult females are prone to both temper and crying meltdowns, even in public, sometimes over seemingly small things due to sensory or emotional overload. Hunger/food issues seem to be a common trigger. Adult males not prone to crying.

Tends to receive less tolerance and more expectations from others, because she appears more adept.

Hates injustice and hates to be misunderstood; this can incite anger and rage meltdowns.

Less likely to stutter than male counterparts when stressed or upset; both may have raspy, choked or monotone voice or suffer mutism.

Females are generally better at socializing in small doses. May even give the appearance of skilled, but it is a 'performance'. Like her male counterpart, will shut down in social situations once overloaded.

More likely to keep pets for emotional support but not always due to sensory issues.