

## Unique Abilities that May Accompany Autism

Along with the challenges that autism involves, you may have noticed that your child also exhibits areas of strength. Although not all children have special talents, it is not uncommon for individuals with autism to have exceptional skills in math, music, art and reading, among others. These areas of expertise can provide great satisfaction and pride for the child with autism. If possible, incorporate your child's areas of expertise into his or her everyday activities and use them whenever possible as a way for him or her to learn and excel.



**The following is adapted from Sally Ozonoff, Geraldine Dawson and James McPartland's *A Parent's Guide to Asperger's Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism*.**

Just as individuals with autism have a variety of difficulties, they also have some distinctive strengths. Some of the strengths that individuals with autism have may include:

- ***Ability to understand concrete concepts, rules and sequences***
- ***Strong long term memory skills***
- ***Math skills***
- ***Computer skills***
- ***Musical ability***
- ***Artistic ability***
- ***Ability to think in a visual way***
- ***Ability to decode written language at an early age (This ability is called Hyperlexia – some children with autism can decode written language earlier than they can comprehend written language.)***
- ***Honesty – sometimes to a fault***
- ***Ability to be extremely focused – if they are working on a preferred activity***
- ***Excellent sense of direction***