

**Extract taken from Part 2 : Statement of Special Educational Needs.**

**Mark 7yrs old.**

Mark has a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and associated difficulties in the areas of communication, social interaction and play skills. He shows many of the features generally associated with that condition; rigidity of thought, limited awareness of others, repetitive behaviour etc.

Mark is in a Year 2 group at school. He watches other children and will join in class activities without prompting but prefers to engage with adults rather than his peers.

Mark is making good progress in language development though he does not have any speech as yet. He has started though to imitate sounds. He responds to his name. Mark prefers to work to his own agenda but is now more able to move away from this when prompted to do so.

Mark is able to sustain attention in a chosen activity and is responsive to adult directed activities. His motivation to engage is affected by how meaningful the activity is to him and his wish to take part in the activity. Mark is learning to adapt to changes in routine. Assessment of Marks cognitive skills shows strengths in the areas of non-verbal reasoning and problem solving. He is responding well to the use of PECS and is learning to use symbols consistently at Phase 4. It is felt that Mark is making progress and has good contextual understanding of language and its use as a means of communicating with others.

Mark particularly enjoys outdoor activities and has good gross motor skills. His fine motor skills are well developed and he enjoys making marks with a variety of implements. He is at an early stage in acquiring imaginative play skills and is learning to imitate sequences of play. He has no awareness of danger and requires close supervision in order to ensure his safety. Marks self help skills are developing well and he is able to use a knife and fork and drink from a normal cup. He is co-operative when washing and dressing and tries to brush his teeth. Mark is not yet developed with all his self help skills.