

ASD

Resource

Section: [Assessment](#)



Checklist: assessing social imagination

Many people on the autism spectrum are very creative and have a good imagination. Having a good imagination is not the same as social imagination. Social imagination allows us to understand and predict the behaviour of other people.

Social imagination helps us to think about things differently and to create new scenarios as we play or work with others. This can be impossible or very difficult for some students with ASD.

Routines assist students to cope with everyday life. Students with ASD may not understand that a routine will need to be changed when the situation requires or because of a new group dynamic.

In assessing social imagination, identify whether the student can:

Skill	Always	Sometimes	Never
Understand the thoughts, feelings, motivations and actions of other people.			
Anticipate what is likely to happen next.			
Cope with changes in routine.			
Cope in new or unfamiliar situations.			
Engage in activities requiring imagination.			
Engage in imaginative play and activities with new scenes and endings.			
Plan, sequence, prioritise and organise.			
Accept that other people may not be interested in their special interest.			
Attempt new work and accept that they will make mistakes or not know everything at the beginning.			