

National Autistic Society say
 Difficulty with Social Relationships
 Difficulty with verbal communication
 Difficulty with NVC
 Difficulty with development of play and imagination
 Resistance to change and routine

Autism

Diagnosis

- Repetitive or stereotyped behaviours
 - Deficits in Communication
 - Deficits in Social Interaction
- DSM IV

explanations

Genetic
 Twin studies
 Ritvo

Cold Parenting
 Bettelheim
 Can't easily be tested

Theory of Mind
 Important Research - Baron-Cohen et al.
 Not developed in Autism
 Sally's lost her marbles
 Evaluation
 Well replicated
 But, not all autistics!
 may be a developmental thing
 doesn't explain some aspects
 Savants
 Excellent rote memory

Cognitive
 Top-down vs bottom-up processing.
 Top down requires matching with meaning. Autistic people use only bottom up, data driven processing. So, can only process parts, without making a whole.

Autistic can reproduce music note by note perfectly, but can't say what type of music it is. i.e. it has no meaning, just data.

Central Coherence
 Lack of central coherence shown in:-
 not easily fooled by "central" visual illusions
 Visuo-spatial block task - poor performance
 Verbal semantic processing
 Recall meaningless and meaningful lists at same level
 Controls recall meaningful lists at same extent.

Interventions

- Medical
 - drugs
- Behavioural
 - Lovaas
 - ABA
- Educational
 - formal schooling better than play
 - Concrete rather than abstract styles of teaching
 - Others by Stapleton
- Family therapy
 - involvement of parents