

Taylor's Tips for Teachers

- ▣ Learn about Asperger's; we often can't control or help ourselves; we need your help.
- ▣ Show you care; I could immediately tell if a teacher liked me or not. If I sensed not, I tuned you out.
- ▣ Find ways to make class interesting and provide options to show what we know. A droning voice and worksheets were a sure formula for bad behavior.
- ▣ My senior class project in which I created my own video was a perfect example. For the first time, I was in control of what I created and learned. I earned a 100% A. That was a great feeling.
- ▣ Just because I fidgeted or didn't show on my face I was listening, believe me, I was. I have hearing like a bat.
- ▣ I've always loved words and used my vocabulary as my shield or weapon. That's how I dealt with bullies.
- ▣ Please, get to know me and my frustrations. For example, students who don't flush toilets. Barbarians. This isn't Asperger's but a basic principle of cleanliness. (Have you seen bathrooms in colleges? Disgusting. It's the same behavior I saw in school.)
- ▣ Give me the opportunity to say what's on my mind without interrupting me. If I can do that, then I may be more receptive to listening to what you have to say.
- ▣ Have a sense of humor and be a person. I like making people laugh.
- ▣ I admit I am not "reverent"; I am naturally resistant to the dogma mindset. Religion, for example, makes little sense to me. I also didn't understand as a young child why I should have unquestioned respect for adults at school. My dad says I still have that problem with him.
- ▣ Be open to comments and corrections; just because you're the teacher or other adult doesn't mean you're right 100% of the time.
- ▣ You can be strict but don't be too strict or mean. Remember to smile.
- ▣ Make your explanations short and sweet. Put it in the simplest terms possible.
- ▣ Break down tests or assignments into smaller parts; be sure to check that I'm on track. I'm easily distracted. You wouldn't believe what goes on in my brain.
- ▣ DON'T make me write so much in class or for homework. It's frustrating. Remember, I have Disgraphia. If I can tell you or create something digitally, you'll see how much I know.
- ▣ I have an advantage because when I'm really interested in something because Asperger's can help me focus and concentrate on it.
- ▣ I know I needed the help of an aide when younger; by my senior year, I was ready to try on my own and not have someone right next to me. That was embarrassing.
- ▣ I do apologize for my awful behavior. It makes me sad. I'm trying to make up for that now. I don't want to end up homeless or unemployed or alone, which really does scare me. I know I would not make it in life without my parents and teachers who cared. Thank you.
- ▣ I am not an expert and don't really know anyone else with Asperger's, but if I can help, you can email me at wtfurr1080p@suddenlink.net