

P.W.A.S. are sensitive to light, strong smells and certain textures. To lower stress or sensory overload go for a quiet planned work environment.

- If at all possible the potential employee with Asperger Syndrome should have a chance to try out a job either through work experience or a short trial period. It is sometimes better to start off with part-time work and ease into fulltime work in order.

Transition to Further Education

While students are still in school they should be encouraged to attend evening or weekend courses in their area of interest. This can be an effective strategy to raise and maintain motivation and make new friends with a common interest. It is important that people with Asperger Syndrome choose a college course or major in a subject that increases their employability. Computer Science or Engineering may be choices. People who work in these areas need to be logical thinkers and have good visual thinking abilities. Others good choices would include accounting, library science and art with an emphasis on Commercial Art, Graphics or Drafting.

People with Asperger Syndrome may have many highly developed skills and talents. However, these must be identified and developed to compensate for underdeveloped social and communication skills. Again, educational systems that assess using portfolio based assessment, such as FETAC, can be an invaluable way of recognising skills and furthering career options.

"Tuiscint" is the Irish word for "understanding".

Our mission statement is "to provide a high quality vocational and rehabilitation service to adults with Asperger syndrome that facilitates participants to move towards greater independence in social and vocational realms of life"

The EVE Limited Tuiscint centre was established in 1999 by, Eastern Vocational Enterprises Limited (EVE) in an initiative with ASPIRE, the Asperger Syndrome of Ireland, to provide social and vocational training for adults with Asperger Syndrome.

EVE Limited Tuiscint provides training in the following areas:

Information Technology and Office Skills, ECDL, Workplace skills, Personal Development, FETAC, Life and Social Skills, Work Options

Useful websites

EVE Limited: <http://www.eve.ie/>

ASPIRE: <http://www.aspire-irl.com/>

P.A.P.A.: <http://www.autismni.org/page.cfm>

O.A.S.I.S.: <http://www.udel.edu/bkirdy/asperger/>

N.A.S.: <http://www.nas.org.uk/>

Autism Europe: <http://www.autismeurope.org/>



Printed by aHSE Print & Design
Tel: 626 3447 Fax: 626 3159
E-mail: print.design@mailf.hse.ie

Eastern Vocational Enterprises Limited

The Opportunity Network

Career Guidance and Support for
People with Aspergers Syndrome



EVE Limited Tuiscint

EVE Limited Tuiscint,
Mount Pleasant Business Park,
Mount Pleasant Avenue Upper,
Dublin 6.

Tel. 01 491 1473
Fax. 01 498 5839
Email: tuiscint@eircom.net
Website: www.eve.ie



First Steps

Before finding the right job, a person with Asperger Syndrome (P.W.A.S.) will benefit from a detailed assessment of strengths, interests, talents and abilities. A good assessment at this point will greatly aid the job matching process and limit the possibility of future failure. Good career guidance with an advisor who has knowledge of Asperger Syndrome is essential.

In evaluating possible career choices it may be useful to consider that many people with Asperger Syndrome have a poor short-term working memory system. Conversely, they often have a better long-term memory system. Activities that involve high demands on short-term memory, or involve the person multi tasking, may be unsuitable for someone with Asperger Syndrome. The type of work environment that suits the person should be determined.

Career possibilities for Visual Thinkers

Many people with Asperger Syndrome are good visual thinkers. Jobs or activities that involve visual thinking put very little demand on the fast processing of information in the short term memory system, and instead utilise the larger and stronger long-term memory system. Outlined below are examples of jobs that may suit a person with Asperger Syndrome who is a good visual thinker.

Computer programming, Drafting, Commercial Art and Design, Photography, Veterinary Assistant, Mechanic, Web page designer, Computer animation, General Maintenance

Many of these careers have wide ranging opportunities and can be done from home on a freelance basis.

Career Possibilities for Non-Visual Thinkers

Outlined below are examples of jobs that may suit a person with Asperger Syndrome who are non visual thinkers but who may be good at maths, music or science for example. These types of careers utilise an excellent long term working memory.

Accounting, Library Science, Computer Programming, Engineering, Geology, Bus Driver, Inventory Control, Musical Instrument Tuning, Laboratory Technician, Bank Teller, Clerical and filing jobs, Telemarketing, Statistician, Physicist, mathematician and other hard science careers, Craft Worker.

Career Possibilities in a quiet environment

Outlined below are examples of jobs that may suit a person with Asperger Syndrome who enjoys a quiet environment.

Restocking Store Shelves, Gardening, Cleaning and janitorial work, Re-shelving Library books, Factory assembly or packing work, Stores, scanning, Filing, Single Task Jobs, Data entry, Plant Care.

Less Suitable Careers

Outlined overleaf are examples of jobs and activities that may be less suited to for a person with Asperger Syndrome.

Waiter/Waitress, Customer Services, Cashier, Administration/Secretarial, Chef, Receptionist/telephone operator, Air traffic Controller, Lab Technician.

These careers are most likely unsuitable for a person with Asperger Syndrome because they place high demand on short term working memory and involve a high degree of multitasking, and often take place in noisy, stress-filled environments.

Factors to consider when evaluating a job

When finding the right job for a person with Asperger Syndrome try and address these issues;

- Does the Job have well defined stages or steps toward a clear goal or outcome?
- Bring employers attention to the quality and skills of the work rather than personality – a portfolio can be a good means to conveying ability to an employer.
- Is the Employer willing to show an understanding of Asperger Syndrome?
- Will the job specification change over time? Dealing with change is often very stressful for a person with Asperger Syndrome. It would be best to be in a career that is relatively predictable.
- Is the working environment suitable? Places of work best suited to a person with Asperger Syndrome are those where noise and other sensory interference is limited. Some