

TOP 3 RULES TO KNOW ABOUT MY CHILD

1) He is **VERY** smart

- Most people greatly under estimate his abilities. (Don't let the nonverbal exterior fool you.)
- If you don't expect it, he won't do it.
- He will rise to a challenge—although sometimes reluctantly.
- He will do as little as possible (path of least resistance.)
- If you think he can't do it, try a different approach.
- Once he understands what is being asked of him, he learns **QUICKLY**.
- Be warned: he also learns quickly how to manipulate his instructors.

2) He is **VERY** observant

- He most likely sees you even if he is not "looking."
- He will wait until you turn your back (for just a second) and then. . .
- He will peak if the answers are nearby (even if upside down.)
- He hears and comprehends more than you realize.

3) He can focus **IF** motivated

- If he understands and agrees with the purpose or outcome
- If he doesn't understand why, then he needs a reward (see Interests)
- Token Economies and/or schedules with breaks/rewards work
- He keeps focus better on expressive and receptive work if it is kept at a fast pace
- Written key words and/or ASL will help him focus (yay whiteboards!)
- Using one of his favorite maintenance tasks can help him refocus
 - ASL flashcards (words or pictures)
 - Categorizing flashcards (words or pictures)
- If the work is too easy, he will "checkout"

STRENGTHS

- American Sign Language (don't under estimate it or his ability to use it)
- He has an amazing memory. He will make you think he has mastery when he really just memorized it.
- Reading, use visual words (white board) if you need to stress a main subject or even just gain his attention
- Categorizing (i.e. sorting cards into fields, if you are not sure he understands a concept teach him to categorize it
- He is usually compliant, obedient and happy
- He is a visual learner and thinker

WEAKNESSES

- He is nonverbal (but he can speak a real language: ASL)
- He has a difficult time focusing in a group setting
- He gets frustrated when he gets things wrong or doesn't understand
- He will filter what is being said and pickup on what he thinks are the key words
- Math and counting
- Testing his comprehension (you have to be creative to really get an accurate measure of what he understands and comprehends)
- Social Skills
 - He will not make sure you see his ASL unless he is asking for something he REALLY wants. He will just stop communicating
 - He does not know how to play with peers but he enjoys watching them play
- He is very cautious, and may even refuse to try, when he is uncertain about how to perform a new physical activity

INTERESTS

- The Alphabet
- American Sign Language
- Music
- Books
- Puzzles (especially if they include his favorite characters)
 - Most things Pixar
 - Backyardigans
 - Super Why
 - Sesame Street
- YouTube (number on reinforce is free time on the iPad)
- Playgrounds (especially swings and slides)

DISLIKES

- Arts and Crafts
- Handwriting
- Counting (prefers to guess rather than take the time to count)
- New ideas or concepts
- Loud noises and crowds

CHALLENGES

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Apraxia (oral, verbal, and spatial manifestations)
- ADHD
- Auditory Processing Disorders
- Sensory Integration Dysfunction
- Fine and Gross Motor Delays