

QUIZ

Can you guess what LJH has?

LJH is a 6y-old Chinese boy. He has an elder brother aged 16, an elder sister aged 14 and he has a younger twin sister. LJH is an adorable physically healthy boy who is very attached to his parents, especially his mother.

LJH (and his twin sister) was born full-term, by Caesarian Section. He had full APGAR Score at birth. Compared with his twin sister, he was 'slow' in terms of his ability to sit, stand and walk. He could only mutter a few incomprehensible sounds at 3 years old. He was able to talk in short sentences at 5 years old. He did not like to play with his siblings, preferring to play alone by himself for hours and hours on end. Neither did he like to play with other children, in fact, they irritated him and he would throw temper-tantrum for hours. There was nothing his parents could do to stop his crying except to give him what he loved best.....crayons. LJH would stop crying immediately and totally absorbed in drawing and coloring. He could draw very impressive picture of buildings, and the most extraordinary thing was he could draw perfectly from memory even though he saw the building only once! Regardless of how long ago he saw the building!

His mother always thought there was something unusual about LJH. Despite his talent, he could not share his 'gift' with others. She found it frustrating and depressing that her little boy would not 'communicate' with her, as if he was happy in his own world and shut her out in the cold. She found his inability to look her in her face while talking

to him very annoying. She found him giving her no 'warmth'. If he wanted something, he would pull her near the object and 'stared' at it hoping she would guess what he wanted, after which he would be absorbed with the object and disregard his mother completely.

LJH was clumsy and felled many times, yet he never cried as much. He liked to climb the stairs, hanging outside the railings, unperturbed by the danger and the falls he suffered previously. When not doing that, he would turn in circle and giggle to himself. LJH had a few 'stubborn' behaviors: he only ate rice- not noodles, not bread, not biscuit, not even chocolate and ice-cream that other children would love. He liked 'Horlicks' though, and at times soya milk. Any attempt to change his diet would result in disaster on the dining table, he would scream until his only food was put forward. His mother was worried about how LJH could adapt to formal education next year when he enters Primary One. As such, she brought LJH for consultation and management.

Answer: LJH is showing signs and symptoms consistent with a Pervasive Developmental Disorder, an Autistic Disorder. However he should be progressively followed-up to detect any changes in his condition with time. Furthermore certain tests may be necessary to exclude other possible conditions.

