

Newly Diagnosed Why Disclose

Many parents of children newly diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome are very concerned with keeping this fact a secret. They worry about the impact on the child's future of being "labeled," and do not want to share news of the diagnosis with others, particularly at school. Over time, this concern almost always disappears, as the parents educate themselves and deal with the realities of the situation. However, in the early days after a diagnosis, this reluctance delays treatment, support and understanding desperately needed by the AS child. The bottom line is that an AS child will always be labeled. Each time the child enters a new classroom, interacts with new peers, or faces a new challenge, a label will be assigned. The only control you have over this process is what that label will be. Prior to a diagnosis, it is frequently "brat," "weirdo," "geek," "nerd," "psycho," or my personal favorite, "kid with the bad parents." After a diagnosis, you can change this label to "child with a neurological impairment who is trying as hard as he can and needs support," or in other words, "Asperger Syndrome."