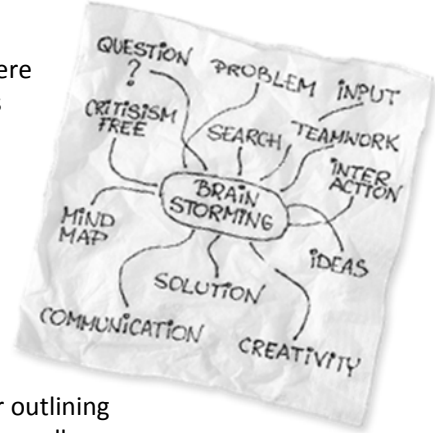# Why Mind Mapping is Helpful for Asperger's Learners

MindView Mind Mapping Software

Although Asperger's is considered the mildest form of Autism, there are many common struggles students and working professionals must overcome to function in their daily activities. Sometimes referred to as "high functioning autism", Asperger's Syndrome impacts communication, organization and memory.

Instructional advances have given way to some exciting learning strategies which can be extremely beneficial to students and working professionals living with Asperger's. One strategy in particular is mind mapping, which is simply a diagram used to visually display information. Mind mapping is commonly used for outlining written documents, organizing thoughts and stimulating memory recall.

Sound familiar? Those are common struggles of Asperger learners. Although many learners embrace mind mapping using pen and paper, there are several software programs that can make the mind mapping process less cumbersome and more engaging.

Mind Mapping for Asperger's

"Mikkel is studying the Higher Technical Examination; he benefits from mind mapping as it helps him structure written assignments and makes him feel more self-sufficient"
A. Egerrup, MD Secretary
Holstebro, DK

Mind maps have a natural structure that radiates from the center and uses lines, symbols, words, colors and images. Mind mapping turns monotonous information into colorful, memorable and highly organized diagrams that work in line with your brain's natural way of thinking and working.

Abi James from Assistive Learning states, "Learners with Asperger's struggle with communication, and using words and symbols in mind maps to explain concepts and ideas helps with communication. Often times learners with Asperger's need help breaking down tasks and topics into smaller steps, and mind mapping strategies are used successfully to support this. "

Reference: The National Autistic Society, "Asperger Syndrome: The Triad of Impairments"

Asperger's often impacts a learner's working memory, making them struggle to retain information and understand sequences of instructions. Mind mapping can be used as a memory recall tool by using images and colors to help reinforce topics and stimulate recall.

Reference: AbilityNet, "Autism and Computing"

MindView Mind Mapping Software is Ideal for Learners with Asperger's

MindView is the industry leading mind mapping software, and includes features specifically designed to assist users with Asperger's.

- **Familiar interface** - MindView uses a similar interface to Microsoft Office packages making it feel familiar and the learners are less likely to be distracted by the interface.

- **Full screen mode** - MindView allows maps to be viewed and edited in full screen mode. This removes the distraction of buttons and menus. This approach has been particularly highlighted by teachers working with learners with Asperger's.

- **Branch focus mode** - In MindView, this mode allows learners to focus in on one branch or group of branches without any menus or distractions. Again this can help learners focus on the idea or concept and stay on task.

- **Structured and simple look of ideas and objects in maps** - With MindView, new ideas always look the same as the last, as defined in the template. This consistent look and feel helps Asperger learners stay focused and has been noted by teachers to work successfully when compared to software where learners get apprehensive by new ideas looking different.

- **Organizational tool** - MindView has a range of organizational and task management views. Maps can be displayed as a Mind Map, Top Down, Left / Right or Outline. For Asperger learners who need help with organisation or understanding an upcoming process or event, the Timeline or Gantt chart views can help. These views can be used to guide learners through periods of change or new activities by making them aware of the steps that are coming up.

- **Templates** - MindView contains a range of templates and custom templates can easily be created. The templates can contain clear instructions to ensure learners understand and complete activities and assignments.

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