

December 6, 2006

Chris Waite  
Bainbridge Island, Washington

Dear Kenneth Hall,

I read your book, Asperger Syndrome, the Universe and Everything. It changed the way I thought about kids with AS, or Asperger Syndrome. My brother has AS, and before I read this wonderful non-fiction book, there were things I did not understand about him. My brother would do things and say things that would not make sense to me. It would take great effort for me to understand him. Prior to reading this book:

1. My brother would make jokes and say things that did not make sense to me. He would laugh and laugh at a joke that I did not understand, and I would be confused.
2. I thought that my brother said offensive things to people on purpose. Now I know that AS kids may say things that are inappropriate or offensive without realizing that it was damaging to the recipient.
3. My brother would keep talking and talking, without understanding that I was getting tired or had a need to change the subject. Kids with AS must learn how to converse with other people. They also have to work hard at reading facial and body expressions that come from others.

Now that I have read your book, I understand my brother better. I know that he is kind even though he may appear offensive to others. I understand how hard he works to communicate with other people. I also realize, that kids with AS do not struggle completely. My brother, like many AS kids, are very bright and have the ability to focus and become experts on their particular topic. He may be different from me, but he is my brother, my friend.

Sincerely,

Chris Waite  
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