

# Piecing Together Pictures

## The Emotional and Social Worlds of ASD Students: Understanding Difficulties and Supporting Growth

Craig A. Knippenberg, LCSW, M.Div.

[www.craigknippenberg.com](http://www.craigknippenberg.com)

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"We have inherited an image of ourselves as Homo sapiens, as thinking individuals separated from the other animals because of our superior power of reason. This is mankind as Rodin's thinker-chin on fist, cogitating alone and deeply. In fact, we are separated from the other animals because we have phenomenal social skills that enable us to teach, learn, sympathize, emote, and build cultures, institutions, and the complex mental scaffolding of civilizations." David Brooks, *The Social Animal*

### I. Introduction

Selecting a chair and making small talk



Isolation: The strongest predictor of college freshman dropout rates

The importance of coordination

Repetition and Practice

Starting with the student's needs base and perspective

## II. Missing the Big Picture: The Emotional and Social Struggles of ASD Students

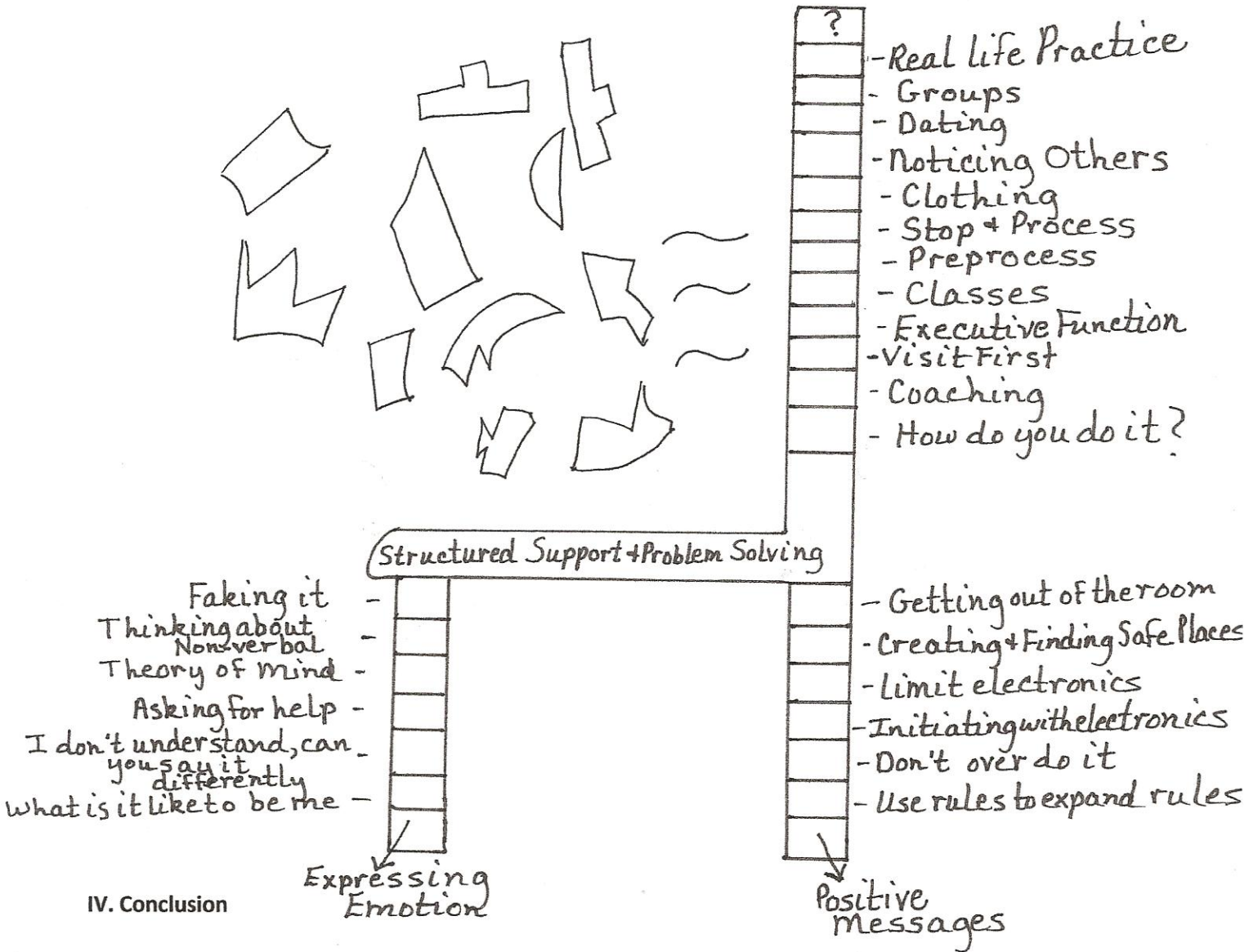
"These are individuals who are socially inept, but socially interested. Articulate but strangely ineloquent; gauche and impractical who are specialists in unusual fields." Hans Asperger

"When told to read between the lines, he thought he needed a magnifying glass." Teacher



### III. Piecing Together the Big Picture

"The most effective intervention appears to be a balanced regime of social skills training, cognitive and behavioral therapy, appropriate medication for symptoms, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, and parent training and support." Richard Lavoie, *It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping the Child with Learning Disabilities Find Social Success*



### IV. Conclusion

"I wouldn't want to give up my ability to see in beautiful, precise pictures. I believe in them."

Temple Grandin, NPR's *This I Believe*

"Yep, I'm one of a kind." Asperger's group member

Embrace the uniqueness, embrace the challenge and keep a long term perspective.