

We at Chandler Driving School have no specialized educational training to diagnose, evaluate or teach individuals with any learning challenges. We therefore require your child to be evaluated by a licensed therapist or expert in the needs of those with any issues that would affect their ability to safely learn to operate a motor vehicle on public roads.

Please provide this form along with the 3 page fact sheet from ADED to a licensed professional for their evaluation of the student's ability to learn to drive based on the following skills. Each item must be initialed.

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

Processing information

Is the individual able to filter information in the driving environment? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the individual able to prioritize information and weigh importance? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the individual able to shift attention quickly in the driving environment? \_\_\_\_\_

Motor Skills

Does the individual have any eye-hand coordination issues? \_\_\_\_\_

Executive function

Does the individual have any difficulty planning, organizing and sequencing  
the steps to solve a problem quickly? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the individual have any difficulty with flexibility of thought? \_\_\_\_\_

Social Skills

Does the individual have any difficulty with interpreting verbal and  
non-verbal information? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the individual have any difficulty with processing information  
too literally? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the individual able understand and respond quickly to instruction? \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion

In my opinion \_\_\_\_\_ poses the ability to learn how to operate a motor vehicle safely  
on public roads.

Comments:

Licensed professional's name and title \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism (AS/HFA)

ADED – The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists

Individuals with AS/HFA typically have a normal to gifted IQ and tend to be perfectionists. The tendency towards perfection can be anxiety-provoking. Autism is considered a spectrum condition and therefore the degree of severity varies. Individuals on the spectrum should consider a driving evaluation before learning to drive.

Warning signs:

- **Information processing** – These difficulties can cause the individual to have impaired reactions to changes in the driving environment. This becomes more challenging as the individual advances into more complex traffic.
  - Individuals with AS/HFA tend to take in too much information.
  - They consider all information to be of equal importance and therefore have difficulty prioritizing the information that they see.
  - Individuals with AS/HFA can have difficulty shifting attention quickly around the driving environment.
- **Motor skills** – This can make it initially difficult to learn to operate the steering, acceleration, and braking to effectively control the vehicle through turns, hills, and curves. As the individual advances in driving, it can impact the ability to carry out the visual and physical steps to make a lane change.
  - Individuals with AS/HFA have eye–hand coordination difficulties.
- **Executive function** – These issues can lead to difficulty managing a roadside emergency, a routine police stop, a detour, or a significant change in weather.
  - They have difficulty planning, organizing, and sequencing the steps to solve a problem.
  - They have difficulty with flexibility of thought.
- **Social skills** – Drivers don't tend to follow the rules all of the time. Therefore drivers need to rely on their ability to anticipate actions of other drivers. Individuals with AS/HFA often have difficulty anticipating actions of other drivers.
  - Individuals with AS/HFA have difficulty interpreting verbal and nonverbal information.
  - Individuals with AS/HFA tend to be extremely literal.

*continued*

To locate a driver rehabilitation specialist in your area contact:

ADED – The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists  
 200 First Avenue NW, Suite 505 ■ Hickory, NC 28601  
 (866) 672-9466 Toll Free in the US & Canada ■ E-mail: [info@aded.net](mailto:info@aded.net) ■ Web: [www.aded.net](http://www.aded.net)

A driver rehabilitation evaluation will examine these skills as they relate to driving. The goal is to be independent, safe drivers. Many of these challenges can be addressed through driver rehabilitation intervention if the individual has the skills necessary to begin learning to drive.

This assessment should include:

- A review of medical history and medication
- Functional ability
- Vision
- Perception
- Assessment of life skills
- Activities that assess visual and cognitive processing skills for driving
- Behind-the-wheel evaluation



**If you or someone you know has Asperger's Syndrome or high functioning autism and is having difficulty driving or obtaining a driver's license, a driver evaluation may be indicated. A driver rehabilitation specialist can provide a comprehensive evaluation and create a customized training program to address issues with driving.**

**References:**

National Autistic Society. (1999). High-functioning autism and Asperger's Syndrome: What's the difference? Retrieved December 16, 2008, from [www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1049&a=3337](http://www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1049&a=3337)

Kowalski, T. (2007). Asperger's Syndrome: Assessment and intervention strategies from preschool to adulthood. Eau Claire, WI: Medical Educational Services.

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# Driving and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

ADED – The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder commonly becomes evident in early childhood and probably will be chronic in nature. The disorder consists of developmental deficiencies that can range from inhibiting behaviors to initiating and sustaining behaviors. Some doctors will prescribe medication for this disorder. Some individuals may improve with age. Any level of ADD or ADHD may increase the risk of unsafe driving issues. These issues stem from underdeveloped visual perception skills, impaired ability to self-regulate behavior, moods and responses. Lack of organization and the inability to concentrate are also underlining issues. An individual’s ability to learn information for the licensing knowledge test works well when one-on-one instruction is provided. Learning from one’s driving mistakes takes extra time. All of the above can result in unsafe driving encounters, unpredictable driving actions, or an increased number of “minor” accidents. Medical clearance to drive is encouraged.

If someone you know has ADD or ADHD, look for the following warning signs that may interfere with safe driving:

- Doesn’t observe signs/signals
- Slow to respond to traffic lights
- Failure to yield right of way
- Multiple minor accidents
- Drifting while driving
- Impaired eye/hand/foot coordination
- Speed fluctuation/inappropriate speeds
- Unable to focus with distractions and driving
- Does not observe all areas of the vehicle before driving in reverse
- Difficulty with interpreting traffic environments/does not anticipate dangerous situations

If you or someone you know is having any of the above warning signs, a driver evaluation may be indicated. A driver rehabilitation specialist, with knowledge about medical conditions, can provide a comprehensive evaluation and determine one’s ability to drive.

This assessment should include:

- Visual perception
- Functional ability
- Reaction time
- Behind-the-wheel evaluation



To locate a driver rehabilitation specialist in your area contact:

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