

## **From "JR," a young woman with Asperger Syndrome**

I do not remember my childhood very well but I do remember being very quiet in nursery school. My mother said that my teachers thought I reminded them of a deaf person because I did not participate in classroom activities with the other children. If I talked about anything with the other children, it was probably asking them whether they liked he-man or not. You know he-man that macho cartoon guy. I wouldn't ask kids anything else as far as I can recall. I remember having a hard time following directions. I also remember being teased by boys that were bullies and would call me stupid.

I got tested at the Hackensack Children's hospital and they said that I had Pervasive Developmental Disorder. That fall I started going to a private occupational therapist to work on my fine and gross motor. I looked at the regular kindergarten class but remember feeling very lost and confused. My parents and my child study team had me tested for special education. We looked at several schools one of them being the Forum School in Waldwick but they didn't feel that that was the place for me. We looked at a school called ECLC and that is where I decided to go. I met some very bright kids there one of them being a boy...whom recently I got in touch with again because I returned to ECLC after having difficulty in the mainstreamed classes. I had one true friend in the public school but we're not friends anymore.

Many of the girls called me giggles because I smiled too much but I was just putting on an act because I wasn't very happy at that time and I started to see a psychiatrist. I haven't met many girls with asperger's who are my age. Many of the ones I know of are in their midteens or late 20s. I had been going to a social skills group in Ramsey and now I am making friends with girls my age at my college in Connecticut.