Competencies
K1 Understand the range of behavioral characteristics of students with ASD in the social, communication, and activity domains and the implications of various learning styles unique to students with ASD.
K2 Understand the meaning and implications of the terms: visual learner, concrete versus abstract learner; stress and anxiety issues; sensory differences and issues; social-communication issues; idiosyncratic behaviors and issues; direct teaching versus incidental learning.
K3 Understand the importance of building multiple relationships among the students, their peers, and other adults in various settings so the students’ independence is supported.

Underlying Issues That Affect the Development of Social Understanding

Read the scenario and then answer the questions that follow.

Scenario
Ethan is 4 years old and attends preschool 4 days a week. Ethan does not spontaneously use language to communicate with others, but does repeat the words and phrases that other people use to communicate with him. Ethan is fascinated with the weather and watches the weather channel every morning before school. Throughout the day, he frequently recites the daily weather report word for word. He gets highly anxious when there are thunderstorms. Ethan plays with Legos in the same way, everyday during playtime. He separates the Legos by color, lines them up, and then connects them using one color at a time. When different play activities are suggested, Ethan strongly refuses. He gets very upset when other children try to join him in play and sometimes hits them when they get too close. Ethan’s classmates have learned to avoid him. Ethan’s parents and teachers think that he exhibits some behaviors that may be characteristic of Autism.

Questions
Based on what you learned in this lesson, identify some of Ethan’s behaviors that are characteristic of ASD and list them under the core areas that define ASD.

1. Impairment in social interaction:
2. Impairment in communication:

3. Restricted repertoire of interests and activities: