Competencies
S3 Demonstrates the ability to consistently use various visual strategies including environmental structuring, schedules, visual cues and social stories to communicate social information and expectations that support the student’s learning as directed by licensed staff.

Underlying Issues That Affect the Development of Social Understanding

Read the scenario and then answer the questions that follow.

Scenario
Students in Mrs. Anderson’s 4th grade classroom voted on where to go on their field trip. The choices were going to the Children’s Museum or the zoo. Jacob, a student with ASD wanted to go to the Children’s Museum and thought that all of the students in his class wanted to go to the Children’s Museum (because that’s what he wanted) and would vote to go there. When the majority of the students voted to go to the zoo, Jacob got very upset. He cried and yelled that the vote was unfair.

Questions
Think about the underlying issues that cause skills deficits in social understanding (impaired theory of mind, a weak central coherence, limited joint attention, and reduced emotional referencing).

Which of the four theories do you think plays a part in Jacob’s response? For each of the theories listed below, state whether or not you believe it is relevant to Jacob’s response. Explain clearly what you’re reasoning is for each of your conclusions.

1. Theory of Mind
2. Central Coherence

3. Joint Attention

4. Emotional Referencing