

Dana is a 3-year-old boy who lives with his mother, father, and 12-month-old sister. He is a new student at a community preschool program. Dana is language delayed and only speaks in one-word phrases, often repeating what others have said or saying the same thing over and over. He has not been toilet-trained and does not play with peers.

Dana's parents report that he is very difficult to manage at home and in the community. They report that Dana is very rigid about what he wants to do and difficult to redirect. When pushed to comply, he often becomes aggressive and hits his parents or throws toys. His parents are reluctant to take him to the store or other places in the community because he has severe tantrums, resists getting in the car, and/or resists leaving places.

Dana's preschool teacher visited him at home to welcome him to his new school. She was distressed to observe that Dana seems to be "in charge." His parents are reluctant to place limits on him. He insists on watching videos repetitively or playing the same game on the computer.

At preschool, Dana has tantrums that include crying, screaming, dropping to the floor, and hitting adults. He is most likely to have problem behavior during small group activities, clean-up time, and when transitioning from activities.