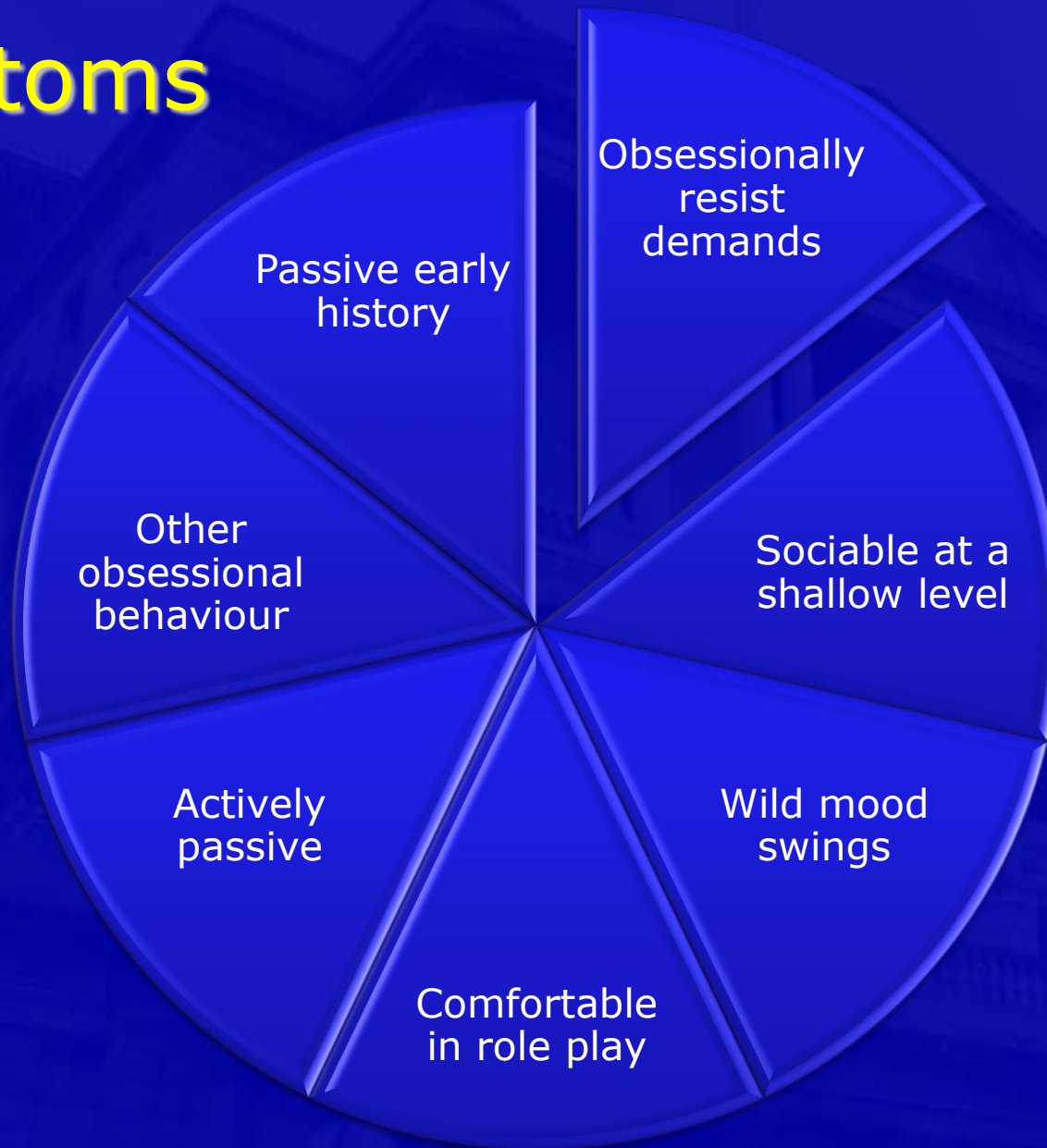


Pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome (PDA)



By James Abela

Symptoms



Newson, E., Le Marechal, K. & David, C. "Pathological demand avoidance syndrome: a necessary distinction within the pervasive developmental disorders." *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 2003: 595–600.

Findings - Task Design

- Prefers to handle images rather than text. Use Mindmaps / diagrams
- Does not like extended writing or reading
- Break down writing tasks to smaller chunks
- Reduce challenge of tasks

Some students may prefer role-play / pretend.

Findings – Body language

- Developing relationships – Difficult
- Keep calm, actively seeks conflict
- Less eye contact, work beside or slightly behind child. Avoid positions that suggest conflict



Findings - Communication

- Responds to Praise
- Indirect motivators
- Don't use complicated language
- Does not listen to whole class instruction very well
- Choice, but make it limited



“Do you **think** you **can design** a PowerPoint slide?”

Balance



Left completely
alone will go off task



Too much
supervision and he
will use it as an
opportunity to object



Further Info

- Pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome Contact Group
<http://www.pdacontact.org.uk/>
- National Autistic Society
<http://www.nas.org.uk/>
- Pathological demand avoidance syndrome paper (Subscription required)
[http://adc.bmj.com/content/88/7/595.abst
ract](http://adc.bmj.com/content/88/7/595.abstract)