IPLCN SEN Guides



Guide to 'Autism'

What is Autism and its impact?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. One in 100 people are on the autism spectrum and there are around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK. Autistic people may:

- find it hard to communicate and interact with other people
- find it hard to understand how other people think or feel
- find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful or uncomfortable
- get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events
- take longer to understand information
- do or think the same things over and over

Impact (these CAN affect learners):

- social communication and social interaction challenges e.g. difficulties interpreting verbal and non-verbal language and tone, taking things literally, needing processing time, difficulties with emotions, finding relationships hard to make
- > repetitive and restrictive behaviour e.g. hand flapping, rocking, highly fixed interests
- > over or under sensitivity response to senses e.g. sensory needs
- > anxiety
- shutdowns or meltdowns

Successful People with Autism





Greta Thunberg is an environmental activist. "...being different is a super power."

Tarik El Arbour is the first professional baseball player diagnosed with Autism.





How can we assess for Autism?

The NHS will assess for autism. You can referred by health professionals or your SENCo. <u>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/autism/getting-diagnosed/</u>

Barriers to Learning

- Difficulties deciphering the world around them often makes education stressful for the child
- Difficulty understanding or communicating their needs to teachers and fellow students
- Difficulty understanding some classroom directions and instruction
- Difficulty reading the subtle vocal and facial cues of teachers
- Inappropriate social interaction can lead to challenging behaviours, bullying, and ostracising.
- Difficulties with imaginative or creative play
- > Difficulties interacting with peers
- May not be able to cope with noisy environments
- > Difficulties being touched by others
- May not be able to maintain eye contact
- > Struggling when makes mistakes
- Struggling when receiving feedback on work

Quality Teaching to Support

See separate guide at the end.

Support for Parents

- Tell family so they understand
- Look to join support groups online or in person
- ✤ Speak to the SENCO
- 'Our Rochdale' lists many services you could contact: <u>https://www.ourrochdale.ora.uk</u>
- Rochdale Additional Needs Team for Autism (TASC) offer advice and support 01706 926400
- * National Charities:
- National Autistic Society

Ambitious About Autism

I AM - Celebrating Autism

Breaking Barriers

POINT

- The NHS can diagnose and offer other support services:
- o an occupational therapist
- o a speech and language therapist
- o a mental health specialist

Online Support

<u>https://www.mencap.org.uk/learning-disability-explained/conditions-linked-learning-disability/autism-and-aspergers-syndrome</u>

https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/information-about-autism/early-years/parenttoolkit

Common Traits of Autism (source - National Autistic Society)

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Quality 1st Teaching

- \checkmark Organise your classroom and let children to know where things are kept
- ✓ Visual timetables, both class and personal
- ✓ Displays with not too much colour or information
- ✓ Check lighting and any persistent noises
- \checkmark Get to know the children, their likes and dislikes and what motivates them
- \checkmark Ask parent's what works at home
- ✓ Be prepared, what patterns of behaviour are there? Can you anticipate what might happen?
- ✓ Use plain language and give examples with instructions

- \checkmark Have clear boundaries and communicate these
- ✓ Give processing time
- ✓ Facilitate with group work, set roles and tasks
- \checkmark Include time away and quite time into the day
- ✓ Organise and plan for their breaks and lunchtimes. Do they need support or an organised activity with accountable people?
- ✓ Give clear choices