

## Systematic Reviews

[Language and communication skills in multilingual children on the autism spectrum: A systematic review](#)

More than half the global population is estimated to be multilingual, yet research on autistic children who grow up in multilingual environments remains scant. We conducted a systematic review of peer-reviewed studies on multilingualism in autistic children and its impact on children's language and communication skills.

## Studies

[Profiles of autism characteristics in thirteen genetic syndromes: a machine learning approach](#)

Phenotypic studies have identified distinct patterns of autistic characteristics in genetic syndromes associated with intellectual disability (ID), leading to diagnostic uncertainty and compromised access to autism-related support. Previous research has tended to include small samples and diverse measures, which limits the generalisability of findings. In this study, we generated detailed profiles of autistic characteristics in a large sample of > 1500 individuals with rare genetic syndromes.

[Access to employment: A comparison of autistic, neurodivergent and neurotypical adults' experiences of hiring processes in the United Kingdom](#)

Autistic people face high unemployment rates. One reason for this may be that hiring processes are inaccessible. This study aimed to establish autistic people's unique experiences of hiring processes in the United Kingdom, by comparing them to the experiences of non-autistic neurodivergent people and neurotypical people. Using qualitative and quantitative data from 225 autistic, 64 non-autistic neurodivergent and 88 neurotypical adults, we identified a series of (dis)similarities in participants' views and experiences of recruitment for employment.

[Predicting academic success of autistic students in higher education](#)

Individuals with autism increasingly enroll in universities, but little is known about predictors for their success. This study developed predictive models for the academic success of autistic bachelor students (N = 101) in comparison to students with other health conditions (N = 2465) and students with no health conditions (N = 25,077). We applied propensity score weighting to balance outcomes. The research showed that autistic students' academic success was predictable, and these predictions were more accurate than predictions of their peers' success.

[Autistic young people's experiences of remote psychological interventions during COVID-19](#)

Telepsychiatry has been rapidly adopted to help control the spread of coronavirus. Clinicians have raised concerns over this for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The remote delivery of psychological interventions in particular requires further attention as their in-person delivery has autism spectrum disorder-associated challenges which overlap with the challenges of telepsychiatry broadly (i.e. beyond autism spectrum disorder). Autistic service-users (aged 15–18 years, n = 6) and clinicians working with this client group (n = 8) were therefore interviewed about their experience of remote psychological interventions during the pandemic.

### [Social Participation and Navigation: Formative Evaluation of a Remote Intervention for Autistic Adolescents and Young Adults](#)

Remote interventions can uniquely benefit and significantly increase the motivation/engagement of autistic adolescents and young adults (AYA) in intervention processes. The evidence-based, technology-based Social Participation and Navigation (SPAN), originally a remote intervention for AYA with traumatic brain injuries, shows great promise for autistic AYA. This formative evaluation aimed to inform SPAN adaptations for autistic AYA.

### [Psychological strengths and well-being: Strengths use predicts quality of life, well-being and mental health in autism](#)

It is often suggested that supporting autistic people to identify and use their strengths will lead to positive outcomes. However, little research has explored if this is true. To date, no research has explored whether autistic people already have knowledge of and use their strengths, nor whether increased strengths knowledge and use is linked to good outcomes, such as a better quality of life, well-being and improved mental health. Comparing large samples of autistic and non-autistic people, this study tested these unanswered questions.

### [Development of stigma-related support for autistic adults: Insights from the autism community](#)

Many autistic adults experience public stigma and some internalise this stigma with negative effects on their mental health. While efforts to reduce public stigma are paramount, change can be slow, and interventions to prevent internalised stigma may also be needed. Using a mixed methods online survey, we gathered the views of 144 autistic adults and parents/caregivers of autistic people in the United Kingdom on whether a stigma-related support programme for autistic adults is needed and, if so, what it should 'look' like.

### [Risk for Severe COVID-19 Outcomes among Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, the Netherlands](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected persons in long-term care, who often experience health disparities. To delineate the COVID-19 disease burden among persons with intellectual disabilities, we prospectively collected data from 36 care facilities for 3 pandemic waves during March 2020–May 2021. We included outcomes for 2,586 clients with PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, among whom 161 had severe illness and 99 died.

## **Calls for Evidence**

### [Disability organisations launch social prescribing survey](#)

The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) has launched a survey to find out about social prescribing for people with learning disabilities and autistic people. The NDTi are working with Learning Disability England, BILD, Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities, Respond, Paradigm and VODG to improve health equality for everyone.

### [Have your say - Easy Read](#)

Download an Easy Read version of our 'Have your say' form. Take five minutes to share your experiences.

We work to make sure health and care services are the best they can be for the people who use them.

## Public Advice

### [Cost of Living - Accessing support](#)

The current cost of living crisis means that the price of things people need such as food and energy is going up quickly. This is having a big impact on lots of disabled people in the UK, as wages and benefits are not going up at the same speed. The cost of care has also increased. For many, this situation is anxiety provoking. It is understandable to be worried about money, and how to pay for things.

Our Policy Team has been monitoring the schemes the Government has been introducing to support people to deal with the crisis, and have put together the below guide so you can find what support you can receive and guidance on how to access it.

## News

### [Concern as proportion of children in England on antipsychotics doubles](#)

The proportion of children and young people prescribed antipsychotics in England has nearly doubled in just two decades, prompting concern among some experts.

### [Turner syndrome tied to autism](#)

Nearly two-thirds of people with Turner syndrome have autism traits, and almost one-quarter meet the diagnostic criteria for autism, a new [study](#) suggests.

### [Overwhelming Support from Autistic People and Families for a Commissioner to Hold Government to Account](#)

A report by National Autistic Society Scotland and Scottish Autism has found that 96% of people surveyed support a commissioner to promote and protect the rights of autistic people. The organisations surveyed 1,215 autistic people, family carers and professionals working with autistic individuals.

### [Two in five disabled people unable to heat their homes this winter](#)

Disabled people are being disproportionately hit by the cost of living crisis, earning 44% less than non-disabled people, according to new research by Resolution Foundation. The [report](#), *Costly differences*, which looked at data from more than 10,400 adults, reveals that two in five disabled people are unable to heat their homes this winter, and almost a third are cutting back on food expenditure.

### [Failings in care contributed to death of young autistic man with a learning disability](#)

A coroner has concluded that failings in care by Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) contributed to the death of young autistic man, who also had a learning disability. 19-year-old Chris Nota died on 8 July 2020 after falling from a height in Southend. At the time of Chris' death, he was under the care of EPUT.

### [Predictive parenting intervention could help support autistic children](#)

Predictive parenting behavioural interventions could help parents better understand and therefore better support young autistic children with difficult emotions and behaviour.

challenging behaviour  
**Learning Disabilities and Autism**  
Asperger Syndrome  
quality of life

research  
mental capacity  
intellectual disabilities  
health information  
carers



**NHS**  
**Mersey Care**  
NHS Foundation Trust  
Community and Mental Health Services

18 January 2023

[Parenting intervention improves behaviour in autistic children and reduces parental stress](#)

New research from the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN) at King's College London shows that 'Predictive Parenting', a group-based behavioural parenting intervention for parents of autistic children reduces children's emotional and behavioural difficulties as well as parental stress in the long term.