

## Studies

### [Teacher perspectives and approaches toward promoting inclusion in play-based learning for children with developmental disabilities](#)

As school authorities strive toward inclusive models of education for children with neurodevelopmental delay and disability (NDD), many kindergarten curricula have mandated pedagogy centered on learning through play. Children with NDD tend to experience greater social isolation and lower rates of social play engagement compared to typically developing peers. Consequently, issues related to social participation and inclusion may be particularly salient in play-based kindergarten classrooms.

### [Persevering professionals: dilemmas of relationships and self-determination in work with people with intellectual disability – a multi-method study based on interpersonal process recall](#)

The article focuses on social educators' reflections on their own professional practice in encounters with people with intellectual disability receiving services. Drawing on Interpersonal Process Recall, a video-assisted method, together with a focus group interview, the study explores the experiences from in-situ encounters of five social educators employed in a Norwegian municipality.

### [Associations between autism traits and family functioning over time in autistic and non-autistic children](#)

Little is known about family functioning over time when raising a child with autism traits, with or without a clinical autism diagnosis. Therefore, we asked caregivers—mostly parents—of a group of 168 children about the family functioning and the child's emotional and behavioral characteristics, as well as autistic traits, twice with about 1 year in between.

### [Association of intellectual disability with overall and type-specific cardiovascular diseases: a population-based cohort study in Denmark](#)

Individuals with mental health problems have been shown to have an increased risk of cardiovascular disorder (CVD), but little is known about the risk of early-onset CVD among those with intellectual disability. We aimed to investigate the association between intellectual disability and subsequent CVD, taking into consideration the severity of intellectual disability and neurodevelopmental and neurologic comorbidity.

## Projects

### [Am I Invisible? Using co-production to advocate change in social care](#)

Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic: A co-production project with people with learning disabilities and autism.

## Open Letters

### [An open letter to NHS England to improve the Accessible Information Standard](#)

We have written a letter to NHS England to express our disappointment at the lack of progress in reviewing the legally-binding Accessible Information Standard.

## Reports

### [Neurodivergence improvement programme: engagement events November 2022](#)

Report on stakeholder feedback from neurodivergence engagement events in November 2022.

## News

### [NHS England refreshes policy for reviewing the mental health care of some autistic people and people with a learning disability](#)

Autistic people and people with a learning disability, who have been or are at risk of being admitted to a mental health hospital, should have their care, treatment and level of risk reviewed regularly. NHS England has recently published a refreshed policy for health professionals, introducing changes to when these reviews happen and what they should focus on. The new policy has been coproduced by people with lived experience and should be implemented by May 2023. It is hoped that this will reduce the number of autistic people and people with a learning disability that are admitted to mental health inpatient settings unnecessarily.

### [Accessible Information Standard: Action to update the standard](#)

Healthwatch has written an open letter to NHS England to improve the Accessible Information Standard (AIS). [You can read the letter here.](#)

This has been signed by eight other members of the Your Care, Your Way campaign, including Learning Disability England.

### [We all want to live a good life – just the 'gloriously ordinary' kind](#)

We looked at the map of fees paid to support providers that the [Association For Real Change \(ARC England\) Learning Disability Research Unit](#) has shared. It shows that most Councils are not paying as much as it costs to run the services. You can see the map [here](#).

### [I've stopped saying I 'have autism' – for me, being autistic is brilliant, not a burden](#)

I want the language I use to describe myself to celebrate all the things my neurological difference has given me. Nick Ransom is a journalist and founder of the Neurodiverse Media Community.

### [Children with autism and ADHD often have additional mental health conditions](#)

Children who have both autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are also more likely to experience anxiety, depression, developmental delays, learning disabilities and other mental health conditions than are children with only autism or ADHD, according to a new population-based [study](#).

### [More people turning to private companies for autism and ADHD assessments](#)

There are currently more than 150,000\* people waiting for an autism assessment across England, Scotland and Wales, according to the latest NHS data. While ADHD waiting times are not routinely published, a survey by the charity ADHD Action revealed that a third of adults awaiting assessment had been waiting for over 13 months in 2021, with some waiting for seven years.

[Learning disability charity supports the Archbishops' Commission's call for a care covenant](#)

The Archbishops' Commission has launched a new report, 'Care and Support Reimagined: A National Care Covenant for England', which has gained support from a learning disability charity in its call for a National Care Covenant.

[Towards a brighter future for mental health, autism and learning disability services](#)

Three steps to turn a powerful new vision for mental health, autism or learning disability services into reality.

[New children's social care strategy 'does not fully recognise needs of disabled children'](#)

Disability organisations have criticised the government's new Children's Social Care Implementation Strategy for failing to distinguish between social care for child protection and social care for disabled children.

[New supported decision-making toolkit for people with communication difficulties](#)

A new supported decision-making toolkit for people with communication difficulties has been developed to aid professionals working with people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

[Energy market "inaccessible" for people with learning disabilities, study finds](#)

The energy market is inaccessible and difficult to navigate for people with learning disabilities, according to a study undertaken for the 'Being Warm Being Happy' project. The study's results suggest that people with learning disabilities often struggle to access support when they need it, and may be paying more than necessary due to inaccessible energy information.