

Studies

[Gamification in Mobile Apps for Children With Disabilities: Scoping Review](#)

Children with disabilities face numerous challenges in accessing health services. Mobile health is an emerging field that could significantly reduce health inequities by providing more accessible services. Many mobile apps incorporate gamification elements such as feedback, points, and stories to increase engagement and motivation; however, little is known about how gamification has been incorporated in mobile apps for children with disabilities.

[Physiological and communicative emotional discordance in children on the autism spectrum](#)

Individuals on the autism spectrum commonly have differences from non-autistic people in expressing their emotions using communicative behaviors, such as facial expressions. However, it is not yet clear if this reduced expressivity stems from reduced physiological reactivity in emotional contexts or if individuals react internally, but do not show these reactions externally to others. We hypothesized that autism is characterized by a discordance between in-the-moment internal psychophysiological arousal and external communicative expressions of emotion.

[Environmental pollutants as risk factors for autism spectrum disorders: a systematic review and meta-analysis of cohort studies](#)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition affecting communication, social interaction, and behavior. Evidence suggests that environmental pollutants are associated with ASD incidence. This review aimed to analyze the effect of environmental pollutants on ASD.

[Access to oral health care services for children with disabilities: a mixed methods systematic review](#)

Children with disabilities experience poorer oral health and frequently have complex needs. The accessibility of oral health care services for children with disabilities is crucial for promoting oral health and overall well-being. This study aimed to systematically review the literature to identify the barriers and facilitators to oral health care services for children with disabilities, and to propose priority research areas for the planning and provision of dental services to meet their needs.

[Recreational ball games are effective in improving social communication impairments among preschoolers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder: a multi-arm controlled study](#)

This study aimed to compare the effects of two 12-week training intervention experimental ball games combined with standard behavioral rehabilitation against a control group solely utilizing standard behavioral rehabilitation on social communication impairments (SCI) in preschool children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

[Understanding the experiences of receiving and providing maternity care for autistic adults: A Multi-perspectival Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis study](#)

Autistic mothers may experience unique challenges when accessing maternity care. A better understanding of the experience of autistic mothers and maternity care professionals would help to create opportunities to support better maternity care. In this study, we interviewed autistic mothers and professional midwives, living and working across the United Kingdom and Ireland.



[\(Re\)thinking about self-harm and autism: Findings from an online qualitative study on self-harm in autistic adults](#)

Autistic people experience a higher prevalence of self-harming behaviours than do the general population. Self-harm remains a stigmatised topic, and until recently, self-harming behaviours in autism were considered to be limited to self-injurious behaviours experienced by intellectually impaired autistic children and not to be experienced by cognitively able autistic adults. Because of the belief held by many professionals that many mental health-related problems are inherently part of autism and immune to treatment or help, many autistic people are left unable to access the help and support that they desperately need.

[Perinatal and Postpartum Health Among People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

How do perinatal and postpartum outcomes differ for birthing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) compared with their peers without IDD?

[The impact of a virtual wellness course for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the third year of COVID-19](#)

The current study examines how a virtual wellness intervention may improve health outcomes in adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thirty-six adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities participated in the wellness intervention. Outcome measures related to satisfaction, mental health, wellbeing, health behaviours and overall health were completed at three time points (pre, post and follow-up).

[Trajectories of psychological distress for Australian fathers parenting a child on the autism spectrum: Evidence from early childhood to adolescence](#)

This study explores the mental health journey of fathers with children on the autism spectrum. Little is known about mental health over time for these fathers. This research spans six-timepoints from when children were aged 4 to 14 years, to track fathers' mental health.

[A critical hit: Dungeons and Dragons as a buff for autistic people](#)

Tabletop role-playing games (TTRPGs) are popular hobbies that may offer specific social benefits for autistic people. This study investigated the ability of TTRPGs to provide a safe space where autistic adults could develop relationships with other autistic adults while engaging in character and world-building.

[Trends in Body Mass Index Among Individuals With Neurodevelopmental Disorders](#)

Neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are increasingly common. Individuals with NDDs have heightened obesity risks, but long-term data on body mass index (BMI) trends over time in this population are lacking.

Study Summaries

[Aggressive challenging behaviour requires personalised interventions, robust caregiver relationships, and sustained system-level support](#)

Aggressive challenging behaviour includes verbal aggression, physical violence, sexual aggression, self-injurious behaviour and property damage. These behaviours in people with intellectual disability are a relatively common occurrence and are known to impact quality of life, increase economic costs and often result in exclusion from activities (Richings et al., 2011; Sheehan et al., 2015).

[What help do people with learning disabilities need as they get older?](#)

Researchers observed the support provided for people with learning disabilities aged 40 years and older at 9 home or day services in England. All were identified as good by commissioners. Most of the services:

- supported people's independence, allowed them to choose who they lived with, helped them to be active and to fulfil their aspirations
- paired people with the staff they related to best, to build strong relationships.

Consultations

[Changes to rules - the Care Quality Commission \(easy read\)](#)

The 3 changes we want to make are about:

- replacing the end date of the regulations with a review date
- healthcare at sports events and cultural events if someone gets hurt
- reporting when someone with a learning disability is restrained

Surveys

[Survey for family carers about accessing research about people with learning disabilities](#)

Take part in a survey about your experiences on accessing research about people with learning disabilities!

E-learning

[New learning available for carers: Reducing the risk of health deterioration for people with a learning disability](#)

Caring for People with a Learning Disability elearning is available on the NHS Learning Hub, offering support for paid and unpaid carers. This free online training programme aims to reduce preventable causes of ill health for people with learning disabilities. Developed by the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership in collaboration with NHS England, it comprises four sessions which have been selected as important areas of learning.

Blogs

[A Good Lives Framework Podcast – A blog by Gary Bourlet](#)

I had great pleasure recording a podcast with Campaign 4 Change, supported by Achieve Together recently. The podcast is called Wheel of Engagement and this episode will be out to listen to by the end of October so keep an eye out for it!

We had such a productive chat about the Good Lives Framework hosted by Learning Disability England. We concentrated on three of the areas that the framework includes, which were social care, employment and transport. It was a thought-provoking afternoon.

News

[Live online course for autistic adults](#)

We are running a live online public speaking and consultancy skills course for autistic adults in November 2024. This is a four-part course for autistic adults in the UK who would like to improve their skills in autism related public speaking, training, co-facilitation and consultancy.

Places are limited, so there is an application process for people who are interested in applying for a place.

[Improving mental health outcomes for autistic women \(RCPsych Congress 2024\)](#)

Following their presentation at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' International Congress 2024, Dr Connor Davidson, Dr Alison Lennox, and Ms Rhiannon Hawkins spoke with CPD eLearning Editor Dr Nadia Imran to discuss improving mental health outcomes for autistic women.

[Half of British customers think turning down music would make shops more accessible](#)

A new study that focuses on inclusive and accessible shopping experiences revealed that only 38 percent of neurodivergent people are aware of sensory-friendly shopping hours.

[Warning over rise in children on disability benefits in England and Wales](#)

Resolution Foundation points to growth in claims for conditions such as autism and says adulthood brings financial cliff edge.

[Information pack and application form to help you apply for a patient and public voice partner role in the Learning Disability and Autism Advisory Group](#)

NHS England Learning Disability and Autism Programme is looking for autistic people, people with a learning disability and family carers to join its advisory group. We want members who can share their experiences of different health services and work with us to improve the health system. We want to include members with links to groups and networks from all backgrounds and communities.