

## Studies

### [Investigating frank autism: clinician initial impressions and autism characteristics](#)

“Frank autism,” recognizable through the first minutes of an interaction, describes a behavioral presentation of a subset of autistic individuals that is closely tied to social communication challenges, and may be linked to so-called “prototypical autism.” To date, there is no research on frank autism presentations of autistic adolescents and young adults, nor individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in childhood who do not meet diagnostic criteria during or after adolescence (loss of autism diagnosis, LAD).

### [Prediction for children with autism spectrum disorder based on digital behavioral features during free play](#)

Play is an indispensable and meaningful activity in children's daily life. Research has shown that autistic children often exhibit differences in play development. The core traits of autism, such as distinct patterns in social interaction and communication, focused interests, and repetitive behaviors, frequently manifest in their play. Therefore, play may serve as an insightful measure of these differences.

### [An online survey of perspectives towards the impact of the covid-19 pandemic amongst caregivers of adolescents with ASD](#)

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has had a negative impact on the health and mental health of adolescents and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their caregivers, have been disproportionately affected. The purpose of this study was to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on Thai caregivers and adolescents with ASD.

### [The use of Language Environment Analysis in autism research: A systematic review](#)

In research, language ability has historically been measured using structured tasks in laboratory settings. In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on the need to instead capture language ability in an individual's natural setting (i.e. through social interaction or in their home). Considering natural language may be particularly important for the autistic population, as an autistic child's language ability can be very different depending on the setting. One common tool for capturing natural language is the LENA recording system, which takes audio recordings over long periods of time and provides estimates of children's and caregivers' speech.

### [Comparative Efficacy of Family-Mediated Intervention Versus Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention on Developmental Domains in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

Autism spectrum disorder is a neurodevelopmental disorder of childhood in which there is a deficit in social and communicative skill, and the child shows restricted and repetitive behavior. For children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, family-mediated intervention and early intensive behavioral intervention are considered standard of care. The study aimed to compare their efficacy on social skills and other developmental domains in our cultural context.

### [An 'explosion in the mouth': The oral health experiences of autistic children](#)

In England, a quarter of 5-year-olds have tooth decay. For families with autistic children, establishing optimal habits (toothbrushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, limiting sugar intake and regular dental visits) can be difficult. Oral health experiences from the perspective of autistic children remains unexplored.



### [Stim culture: Outlining anime's appeal to the autistic community](#)

This article explores how anime contributes to the creation of a culture that attracts autistic individuals and supports their lives. We identify three aspects that may explain why it becomes a special interest that is both deeply personal and widely shared: visual tactility, or animation stimulating; layers, or moving through estranged worlds; and unmasking, or emerging neurocultures and languages. Tentatively presenting anime as 'stim culture,' we uncover new directions in autism and fan culture research.

### [Investigating visual perspective taking and belief reasoning in autistic adults: A pre-registered online study](#)

Many autistic individuals report difficulties in social situations, where they are required to think about what goes on in others' minds. These states of the mind can include how others perceive the world around them, their beliefs, or their desires. While research has shown that autistic children could be delayed in developing their full capacity in this regard, less is known about how adults process others' experiences and beliefs.

### [Disability barriers autistic girls face in secondary education: A systematic review](#)

Autistic adolescent girls face complex and diverse challenges in the school setting, specifically mental health issues, unmet social and education needs, and social exclusion. The purpose of this review was to provide a general idea of research relating to the experiences of autistic females in secondary school settings by reporting on their experiences and the lived experiences of autistic women reflecting on their past.

### ["What does this mean for our future?" uncertainty management in mothers' narratives about the diagnosis and birth of their child with Down syndrome](#)

Pregnancy and childbirth are uncertain experiences that become even more so when parents receive an unexpected medical diagnosis for their child. In the present study, we document sources of uncertainty and the tools used to manage uncertainty in 44 mothers' narratives about the birth and diagnosis of their child with Down syndrome (DS); we also explore variability in the sources of uncertainty and uncertainty management tools as a function of whether mothers received a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of DS for their child.

### [The influence of body posture on facial expression perception in Autism](#)

Facial expression perception is influenced by body posture, with perception biased toward the body emotion. Previous research has suggested that the magnitude of this biasing influence of body posture is driven by individual differences in the precision of facial expression representations underlying discrimination abilities, where lower precision leads to a greater influence of body posture. It is unclear however whether similar mechanisms might drive the influence of contextual cues in Autism, which is often characterised by reduced facial expression discrimination abilities.

### [The effect of anxiety and autism symptom severity on restricted and repetitive behaviors over time in children with fragile X syndrome](#)

Restricted and repetitive behaviors (RRBs) are highly prevalent and reduce function in individuals with fragile X syndrome (FXS). As transdiagnostic features of intellectual disability, elevated rates of RRBs in FXS could represent various underlying known co-occurring conditions in FXS such as anxiety or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), yet this distinction has not been investigated.

[Exploring the links between sensory sensitivity, autistic traits and autism-related eating behaviours in a sample of adult women with eating disorders](#)

This study examined the presence of autistic traits in a sample of adult women diagnosed with different Eating Disorders (ED), and explored the concurrent role of autistic traits and sensory sensitivity in influencing both their eating disorder symptomatology and their autism-related eating behaviours.

[Large-scale metagenomic analysis of oral microbiomes reveals markers for autism spectrum disorders](#)

The link between the oral microbiome and neurodevelopmental disorders remains a compelling hypothesis, still requiring confirmation in large-scale datasets.

[Mainstream Technologies in Facilities for People With Intellectual Disabilities: Multiple-Methods Study Using the Nonadoption, Abandonment, Scale-Up, Spread, and Sustainability Framework](#)

People with intellectual disabilities in residential or outpatient facilities for people with disabilities run the risk of being digitally excluded by not having opportunities for taking advantage of digitalization possibilities.

[A Compressive Armchair \(OTO\) to Perform Deep Pressure Therapy in Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder: User-Centered Design and Feasibility Study](#)

Deep pressure therapy (DPT) is widely used to reduce anxiety in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), but evidence of its efficacy is limited.

[Multilingualism impacts children's executive function and core autism symptoms](#)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is associated with marked heterogeneity in executive function (EF) abilities. EF components including inhibition and shifting are related to ASD core symptoms such as perspective taking, social communication, and repetitive behavior. Recent research suggests that multilingualism may have a beneficial impact on EF abilities, especially in children with ASD. However, there remains a lack of comprehensive understanding regarding the relationships between multilingualism, EF, and core symptoms in children with ASD.

## Policy Papers

[Mental Health Bill 2025: easy read](#)

Plans to change the law that tells people what to do if they need to stay in hospital after a mental health crisis.

## Statistics

[Autism Statistics, October 2023 to September 2024](#)

These statistics present a group of measures on waiting times for autism spectrum disorder diagnostic pathways, based on the time between a referral for suspected autism and the first care contact associated with that referral.



## Guidance

[Change NHS survey: tell us what you think \(easy read\)](#)

Tell us about how we can make the health service better.

## Blogs

[Four challenges people face living with learning disabilities](#)

In the UK, approximately 1.5 million people have a learning disability. Many people with learning disabilities find it difficult to learn, develop new skills, understand information and interact with other people. Therefore, accessing the support they need to live as independently as possible is crucial.

[Hearing SEND appeals fairly: responding to possible change to SEND Tribunal rules](#)

It isn't news that waiting times for SEND Tribunal hearings are at an all-time high. As the number of appeals has increased six-fold in the last ten years, the length of time that families wait for a decision has become longer and longer.

## News

[Better care for mental health patients under major reforms](#)

Mental Health Act reformed to improve treatment of patients and address disparities.

[Bill to overhaul 'outdated' Mental Health Act introduced](#)

Long-awaited reform would raise thresholds for detaining people in hospital, limit sectioning of people on basis of autism or learning disabilities and end use of police or prison cells as places of safety.

[How the government plans to reform the Mental Health Act 1983](#)

Tim Spencer-Lane outlines how the Mental Health Bill would revise provisions and safeguards around detention and treatment in England and Wales.

[Bild welcomes Mental Health Act reform announced today](#)

Bild welcomes the Mental Health Act reforms announced today by Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting MP. Reform to the Act is long overdue, and we are pleased that today's announcement explicitly acknowledges the significant inequalities and human rights breaches experienced by people with learning disabilities, autistic people and black people.

[Government Unveils its New Mental Health Bill](#)

The Government has this week unveiled its new Mental Health Bill, which will reform mental health legislation to end the inappropriate detention of autistic people and people with a learning disability.

[Mental Health Act reforms 'could end' inappropriate detention of people with a learning disability or autism](#)

New reforms to the Mental Health Act will ensure that people with a learning disability and autistic people with no co-occurring mental health conditions can only be detained for up to 28 days.



### [Autism assessment waiting times](#)

As of September 2024, 204,876 people were waiting for an autism assessment in England, new NHS data has revealed. That's more than the population of Reading.

### [SEND reform will focus on inclusive mainstream, says Education Secretary](#)

The Department of Education has said that special needs and disability (SEND) reform will centre around inclusive mainstream.

### [New project to track health of people with Down syndrome](#)

A new long-term study to observe and track health data of people with Down syndrome from birth to adulthood has been launched by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH).

### ["People are experts in their own lives"](#)

Gary Bourlet and Amanda Fawcett, Membership and Engagement Leads for Learning Disability England share how they recently presented on self-advocacy at the Blackbelt National Advocacy Conference.

### [Learning Disability England Co-Chairs respond to last week's budget](#)

The Co-chairs of Learning Disability England have been thinking about the government's budget and what that means for the LDE members they know and represent.

### ["On Election Day six tenants voted for the first time"](#)

James would like to tell you about how we used the Good Lives Manifesto at Fairoak Housing.

### [Findings reveal just five percent of adults with a learning disability are in paid employment](#)

Councils are calling for the needs of hundreds of thousands of working-age adults and lifelong disabled people requiring social care not to be overlooked in UK Government plans for a National Care Service.

### [Charity launches new skills academy for adults with a learning disability](#)

Guideposts Trust has launched a new skills academy with nationally approved Life Skills qualifications aimed specifically at adults with learning disabilities.

### [Working in partnership: Safeguarding adults in health and social care](#)

Safeguarding adults is a complex area of practice. Explore how practitioners can support adults to live free from harm, abuse and neglect using Research in Practice resources to support Safeguarding Adults Week.

### [Research to have on your radar: November](#)

This article summarises some key pieces of research in the learning disability and autism field over recent weeks. This includes studies on maximising quality of life in supported living settings, inner speaking and self-talk in autistic adults, interpersonal trauma in children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities, and a social inclusion programme for neurodiverse children at school.

### [Exploring the connection between autism and sleep](#)

The Transmitter rounds up the latest research on autism and sleep.

