

Studies

[The recognition and assessment of pain in people with profound intellectual disabilities by nurses: An appreciative inquiry](#)

Individuals with profound intellectual disabilities are non-verbal and reliant on carers for pain recognition, assessment and management. Pain is a multifaceted and interconnected experience. Assessment tools designed specifically for this population are needed. This study aimed to develop methods for improved pain care practices by nurses.

[Psychological interventions for parents of children with intellectual disabilities to enhance child behavioral outcomes or parental well-being: A systematic review, content analysis and effects](#)

The aim of this review was to identify the type, content, and effectiveness of psychological parenting interventions for parents of children with intellectual disabilities to enhance child behavior and/or parental well-being.

[‘I’m sick of being the problem’: Autistic mothers’ experiences of interacting with schools for their autistic children](#)

Successful partnerships between families and schools can substantially improve children's success in and out of school. Yet parents of autistic children often report considerable challenges with their children's education. Almost no research, however, has examined autistic parents' own experiences.

[Longitudinal associations between autistic children's anxiety and social communication differences: The moderating role of executive function behaviours](#)

Anxiety has been associated with social communication and interaction differences among autistic children. We sought to clarify the direction of these associations longitudinally, and test executive function as a moderator.

[Neurodivergence, intersectionality, and eating disorders: a lived experience-led narrative review](#)

Autistic people and those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are at a high risk of developing an eating disorder. While there is limited evidence on the relationship between other forms of neurodivergence and eating disorders, research suggests associations between giftedness, intellectual disability, obsessive-compulsive disorder, psychosis, Tourette's syndrome, and disordered eating.

[Investigating pain-related medication use and contribution to polypharmacy in adults with intellectual disabilities: a systematic review](#)

Adults with intellectual disability experience more pain than adults without and, despite a higher number of medications being prescribed, may be less likely to receive medication for pain.

[Understanding cognitive flexibility in emotional evaluation in autistic males and females: the social context matters](#)

Autistic individuals often have difficulty flexibly adjusting their behavior. However, laboratory experiments have yielded inconsistent results, potentially due to various influencing factors, which need to be examined in detail. This study aimed to investigate the hypothesis that the social content of stimuli could play a specific role in some of the flexibility challenges faced by autistic individuals. The second aim was to explore sex differences in this context.



[An evaluation of a multidisciplinary care planning tool for people with intellectual disabilities and behaviours of concern](#)

Multidisciplinary care planning for people with intellectual disabilities who engage in behaviours of concern (BoC) is challenging and complex. Effective collaborative understanding and action planning across all stakeholders is essential. Cornwall's Adult Community Learning Disability Team developed a care planning tool (Connect Behaviour) using contemporary evidence and best practice. Connect Behaviour is designed to facilitate care planning by collaborative and enhanced shared understanding and is also available as an interactive web-based tool.

[Fostering holistic eye care for children with special educational needs: an interprofessional education program bridging optometry and education](#)

This study outlines the initiation of an interprofessional education (IPE) program designed for optometry and education students. The program aimed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and improve the management of eye health in children with special educational needs (SEN) – a vulnerable and underserved group.

[The relationship between autistic traits and problematic smartphone use in adolescents: The serial mediating role of anxiety and executive dysfunction](#)

Based on the Interaction of Person-Affect-Cognition-Execution (I-PACE) model, this study aimed to explore the relationship between autistic traits and problematic smartphone use (PSU) among Chinese adolescents and to examine the serial mediation effect of anxiety and executive dysfunction in the association between autistic traits and PSU.

[Comparative effectiveness of physical exercise interventions on sociability and communication in children and adolescents with autism: a systematic review and network meta-analysis](#)

Objective: To investigate the efficacy of physical activity as a crucial intervention for Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in clinical settings, we conducted a network meta-analysis to evaluate the effect of various exercise interventions on sociability and communication in individuals with ASD. Our aim was to identify the exercise modalities most conducive to enhancing these essential skills.

[A assessment of the effects of parental age on the development of autism in children: a systematic review and a meta-analysis](#)

There has been conflicting evidence in earlier research on the association between parental age and autism risk. To clarify this association, we conducted a comprehensive meta-analysis of observational studies. The primary objective of this study was to determine the association between parents' age and the risk of autism in the offspring.

[Internet-Delivered Psychoeducation \(SCOPE\) for Transition-Aged Autistic Youth: Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

This study aimed to investigate the effectiveness of SCOPE through a 3-armed randomized controlled trial. The intervention aims to increase participants' understanding of autism and, in doing so, increase their quality of life (QoL).

[A Technology System to Help People With Intellectual Disability and Blindness Find Room Destinations During Indoor Traveling: Case Series Study](#)

This study aimed to assess a new technology system to help people with severe to profound intellectual disability and blindness find room destinations during indoor traveling.



[Older Autistic People, Access and Experiences of Services, and the Factors That Affect This](#)

This paper presents new empirical data obtained from interviews and focus groups on older (50 and over) autistic people's experiences of accessing a variety of services.

[The Evolving Role of Cannabidiol-Rich Cannabis in People with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Systematic Review](#)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological disease and lifelong condition. The treatment gap in ASD has led to growing interest in alternative therapies, particularly in phytocannabinoids, which are naturally present in Cannabis sativa. Studies indicate that treatment with cannabidiol (CBD)-rich cannabis may possess the potential to improve fundamental ASD symptoms as well as comorbid symptoms.

[Shared genetic architecture and causality between autism spectrum disorder and irritable bowel syndrome, multisite pain, and fatigue](#)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) often co-occurs with functional somatic syndromes (FSS), such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), multisite pain, and fatigue. However, the underlying genetic mechanisms and causality have not been well studied.

[Differences in ongoing thought between autistic and non-autistic adults](#)

Autistic people may be distinguishable from non-autistic individuals in the content and modality of their thoughts. Such differences potentially underlie both psychological vulnerability and strengths, motivating the need to better understand autistic thought patterns.

Blogs

[New College information resource on autism and mental health](#)

Last week the College released a new patient information resource on autism and mental health. The resource has taken over a year to produce, and I've been very impressed by the thoroughness and professionalism of the College information team.

News

[Learning Disability England Statement – The Terminally Ill Adults Bill](#)

This post will be talking about the Terminally ill Adults Bill and the conversations around it. It is going to mention some subjects that people might find upsetting, including: terminal illness, death/dying, Assisted Dying and DNARs.

[MPs vote for assisted dying bill with majority of 55](#)

In a historic vote, MPs have today voted in support of the assisted dying bill, which means it will be put forward for further parliamentary scrutiny with the backing of the elected chamber.

[RCPsych comments on vote for assisted dying Bill in England and Wales](#)

Today MPs in Westminster debated The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, brought forward as a Private Members' Bill by Kim Leadbeater MP. A total of 330 MPs voted in favour of moving the Bill to the next stage of the legislative process, while 275 voted against it.



[New guide to help carers better understand self-injury in children with a learning disability](#)

The national charity Cerebra has published a comprehensive guide to self-injury in children with a learning disability in order to help parents and carers better understand and potentially reduce self-injurious behaviours.

[Mental Health Bill debated in the Lords](#)

Members of the House of Lords discussed the main objectives of the Mental Health Bill at second reading on Monday 25 November.

[Government announces employment reforms](#)

The Government has announced the Get Britain Working White Paper to reform employment, health and skills support which it promises will tackle economic inactivity and support people into good work.

[Support for disabled people key part of new employment White Paper](#)

The government has announced a raft of employment reforms today, backed by an investment of £240 million, that includes an independent review into how employers can be better supported to employ people with disabilities.

[Watchdog 'appalled' by use of restraint on autistic children at London school](#)

Children's commissioner Rachel de Souza calls for urgent review after leak of CCTV footage from Whitefield school.

[The School Prison Cells](#)

Yesterday the BBC broadcast "The School Prison Cells" showing children with learning disabilities being abused and neglected at Whitefield School in London.

[Whitefield School abuse: Children's Commissioner calls for formal review](#)

The Children's Commissioner has called for a formal review of the events that took place at Whitefield School in Walthamstow after new CCTV footage showed autistic children being abused while confined in isolation rooms.

[DfE Secretary's comments about autism "very concerning", say NAS](#)

The National Autistic Society (NAS) has described the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Education's comments about autism as "misleading" and "very concerning".

[Accessible health communication needed now, campaigners say](#)

The Health Secretary Wes Streeting was hand delivered an inaccessible health appointment letter this week as part of a campaign by disability charities to make health information and communication more accessible.

[Targeted support needed to prevent exploitation of children with SEND, say researchers](#)

Opening conversations between young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and the staff they have regular contact with can help identify and prevent exploitation and modern slavery, according to a new research study.

[Building Safety, Standards, and Trust](#)

Learning Disability England has been supporting the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as they try to increase the quality and safety of nursing.



challenging behaviour
Learning Disabilities and Autism
Asperger Syndrome
quality of life

mental capacity
intellectual disabilities

health information
carers

research



NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

4 December 2024

[Challenging Behaviour - National Strategy Group Reception, November 2024](#)

On Wednesday 20th November, the Challenging Behaviour – National Strategy Group (CB-NSG) hosted a reception at Central Hall Westminster to raise awareness of the issues facing children, young people, and adults with learning disabilities and who are autistic.

[The Good Doctor's version of autism masks the reality of badly failed children](#)

Tales of 'too much' progress don't stand up when severe cases are still being treated with a Victorian harshness, as recent disturbing footage shows.

[New Lego characters aim to represent hidden disabilities such as autism](#)

Company says it hopes sunflower lanyard will help people 'embrace diversity, value inclusivity and remove stigma'.

[Launch of Dr Valeria Frighi Intellectual Disability Research Award](#)

In memory of Dr Valeria Frighi, the Department of Psychiatry have launched a small research funding award of up to £1,000 to support academics with a research interest the topic of intellectual disabilities.

