

Learning Disabilities

Dec 2020a

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COVID-19

[Bild helpline supports families and carers during Covid-19](#) Bild's qualified and experienced PBS consultants can provide targeted support and strategies to help get through the next phase of COVID-19. They will be providing phone support and people can book an initial half hour call through Eventbrite.

[Prioritise people with learning disabilities in any vaccination plan, say organisations](#) People with learning disabilities have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, be that by infection and mortality rates, or restricted support and policy. Now that a vaccine is just around the corner, many organisations have urged policymakers to priorities people with learning disabilities in any vaccination plan.

[COVID-19: guidance for supported living](#) Easy read version.

Studies

[Rare variants tied to neuronal migration, autism traits](#) Many people with mutations that disrupt a gene called NCKAP1 have autism or autism traits — along with speech and language problems, motor delays and learning difficulties — according to a new study. The results, from a large international team of researchers and clinicians, clarify how mutations in NCKAP1 affect people and solidify its position as a top autism gene.

[Infant hearing test might be sound predictor of autism](#) Babies who are later diagnosed with autism have a slightly slower brain response to sound on a newborn hearing test than non-autistic babies do, according to a new study.

[Gene mutations point to overlaps in brain connectivity for autism, schizophrenia](#) People who have large mutations associated with autism and schizophrenia share atypical patterns of brain connectivity, according to a new study, especially between areas that process sensory information. The findings offer a potential explanation for why different genetic changes can lead to the same behavioural traits, the researchers say.

[Big brain may mark subtype of autism](#) Autistic boys with large brains in early childhood still have large brains in adolescence, according to a new study. Autistic girls, too, have brains that grow differently from those of their non-autistic peers. The findings challenge the long-standing idea that brain enlargement in autism is temporary.

[Trends in Web Searches About the Causes and Treatments of Autism Over the Past 15 Years: Exploratory Infodemiology Study](#) Google Trends is an effective infodemiology tool to analyze large-scale web search trends about ASD. The results showed informative variation in search trends over 15 years. These data are useful to inform clinicians and organisations about web queries on topics related to ASD, identify knowledge gaps, and target web-based education and knowledge translation strategies.

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Webinar

[BASW England and the Autism Alliance presents: 'Know Your Rights' part of the Homes not Hospitals webinar series \(Thursday 17th December 2020, 12.30pm – 1.30pm\)](#) This webinar will explore the importance and value of working in partnership with people and families to enable young people and adults to be discharged from Assessment and Treatment Units as quickly as possible with the right accommodation and support in place.

News

[More funding to support people with disabilities live independently](#) An extra £68 million will help thousands more disabled people to access grants to improve their homes so they can live independently.

[International Day of People with Disabilities – shines a light on hidden disabilities](#) According to the World Health Organisation, it is estimated that more than 1 billion people worldwide are living with some form a disability, 450 million people live with a mental or neurological condition, a further 69 million people sustain a traumatic brain injury every year, and one in 160 children are identified as on the autism spectrum.

[Possible links of anorexia to autism, explained](#) A look at what researchers know about the overlap between the two conditions and what they are still working to find out.