

Learning Disabilities

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Covid-19

[Life for people with learning disabilities during the Covid-19 pandemic](#) This study is designed to systematically and responsively track the experiences of adults with learning disabilities through the COVID-19 pandemic over time across the four UK nations; the results of the wave 1 report are now available to read.

[Disabled children and their families are at risk of developing “serious mental health issues”](#) A report published by the Disabled Children’s Partnership has found that disabled children and their families are at risk of developing serious mental health issues as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

News

[The Learning Disability Mortality Review programme will now include autistic people](#) The Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDer) programme has been expanded to include autistic people with the aim of eliminating health inequalities and improving the care of hundreds of thousands people with learning disabilities and autism.

Studies

[Sensory issues linked to heart-rate differences in autistic youth](#) Autistic children with sensory issues show more intense physiological reactions to unpleasant sounds and other sensations than their non-autistic peers do, a new study shows.

[Genes drive autistic people’s reactivity to environmental cues](#) Genes influence how autistic people react to sights, sounds and other sensory cues, whereas environmental factors shape their tendency to notice and seek out such stimuli, a new study suggests.

[Communication struggles may explain aggression in some autistic boys](#) Poor communication skills predict aggression in autistic boys, according to a new study. In autistic girls, communication and aggression may not be related.

[Age 6 may represent key turning point in autism](#) Many autistic children show continuous improvement in trait severity until they are school-age, at which point progress often levels off.

[Gut microbes shape social behavior in autism mouse model](#) Treating mice missing the autism-linked gene CNTNAP2 with a strain of gut bacteria makes them more social but no less hyperactive.