

## Cochrane Review

### [Music therapy for autistic people](#)

The authors found that music therapy compared with 'placebo' therapy or standard care probably increases the chance of overall improvement by the end of therapy. It also probably helps to enhance quality of life and lessen symptom severity. Music therapy probably does not increase adverse events. We cannot tell whether music therapy may help with social interaction, non-verbal communication and verbal communication at the end of therapy. Most of the included studies featured interventions that correspond well with music therapy in clinical practice concerning methods and settings.

## Studies

### [More training needed to address choking risk](#)

Better training on choking risk and management is needed for staff and caregivers working with people with learning disabilities, according to a new study.

### [Inflammation may reshape brain regions tied to autism](#)

Having a genetic predisposition to inflammation is linked to structural changes in brain regions implicated in neurodevelopmental conditions.

## Toolkits

### [How to support people with learning disabilities to use tech with free comprehensive toolkits](#)

Professor Jane Seale from the Open University discusses the journey to creating three different toolkits – one for support workers, one for managers, and one for people with learning disabilities – that help individuals with learning disabilities to use technology for greater inclusion, participation in society, and independence.

## Report

### [New report launched: Investing in early intervention](#)

Too often children with learning disabilities and their families are unable to access the early years support and services they need. Cerebra in collaboration with The Challenging Behaviour Foundation, Council for Disabled Children, University of Warwick and Mencap have published a new report "Investing in early intervention".

## Legislation

### ['Antiquated' mental health laws in England and Wales set for overhaul](#)

Mental health bill aims to limit detentions of autistic people and those with learning disabilities.

## Consultation

### [SEND review: right support, right place, right time](#)

Open consultation on changes to make to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system in England. Closing date extended to 23.45 on 22 July as new materials have been uploaded.

## Survey

### [Mencap's Big Learning Disability Survey](#)

Have your say! If you have a learning disability Mencap would like to hear about your experiences with healthcare, mental health, discrimination, and money and support.

## Statistics

### [Median pay for autistic people last year was a third less](#)

Staff with autism as their main impairment had a wider pay gap in 2021 than those with other types of impairment, according to new data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The median pay for autistic people was standing at 33% less than non-disabled employees without a long-lasting health condition. Those with severe or specific learning difficulties (29.7% less), epilepsy (25.4% less), or mental illness or other nervous disorders (22.1%), also had a large pay gap to non-disabled employees with no long-lasting health conditions.

### [Updated estimates of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) related deaths by disability status, England](#)

Estimates of differences in coronavirus (COVID-19) mortality risk by self-reported disability status for deaths occurring up to 9 March 2022, using linked data from the Office for National Statistics' Public Health Data Asset. [Dataset](#)