

Studies

[Better understanding of autistic people's listening difficulties could improve their wellbeing](#)

Autistic people experience different types of listening difficulties in noisy environments, sometimes with severe consequences. Research found that background noises could be distracting, drown out other voices, and overwhelm people. These difficulties affected autistic people's social life, career, and emotional wellbeing. The research team says that greater understanding of these listening problems could allow autistic people to participate more fully in conversations and everyday life.

[Comparison of classification algorithms for predicting autistic spectrum disorder using WEKA modeler](#)

In healthcare area, big data, if integrated with machine learning, enables health practitioners to predict the result of a disorder or disease more accurately. In Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), it is important to screen the patients to enable them to undergo proper treatments as early as possible. However, difficulties may arise in predicting ASD occurrences accurately, mainly caused by human errors. Data mining, if embedded into health screening practice, can help to overcome the difficulties. This study attempts to evaluate the performance of six best classifiers, taken from existing works, at analysing ASD screening training dataset.

[Access to general practice for people with intellectual disability in Australia: a systematic scoping review](#)

People with intellectual disability experience inadequate access to general practice and poorer health outcomes than the general population. While some access barriers have been identified for this population, these studies have often used narrow definitions of access, which may not encompass the multiple dimensions that influence access to general practice. To address this gap, we conducted a scoping review to identify factors impacting access to general practice for people with intellectual disability in Australia, using a holistic framework of access conceptualised by Levesque and colleagues.

[Knowing and accepting oneself: Exploring possibilities of self-awareness among working autistic young adults](#)

Autistic people have historically been described as incapable of developing a deeper sense of self-awareness, and autistic understandings of self-awareness have been largely disregarded. The aim of this study is to explore the way young autistic adults try to understand their functionality and who they are, or to develop their sense of self-awareness, in work and in private life contexts. In 12 qualitative interviews conducted with four autistic adults without learning difficulties, we identified a rich set of reflections on knowing and accepting oneself.

[Specificity and sensitivity of the social communication questionnaire lifetime screening tool for autism spectrum disorder in a UK CAMHS service](#)

The Social Communication Questionnaire is used to identify children and young people (CYP) who may require formal ASD assessment. However, there is a paucity of research on its utility in Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. This evaluation aimed to determine the sensitivity and specificity of the Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ) in a UK, Midlands CAMHS service.

[Quality of life and coping strategies used by parents of children with autism spectrum disorder in Oman](#)

Raising a child with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can have a significant impact on quality of life (QOL). This study was conducted to assess the QOL and coping strategies of parents of children with ASD in Oman.

[Quickstart for toddlers with autism spectrum disorder: A preliminary report of an adapted community-based early intervention program](#)

Early intervention (EI) for young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) must be resource-efficient while remaining effective; thus, clinicians are challenged to create and implement useful methods. Clinical evidence from community-based interventions that include reliable diagnoses, individual EI programs, along with comprehensive descriptions of participants, procedures, and participant outcomes can inform practice, translational research, and local policy.

[Parent-child interaction therapy \(PCIT\) with families of children with autism spectrum disorder](#)

Parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT) is an evidence-based behavioral parent training program designed for preschool-age children that emphasizes supporting parent-child interaction patterns to improve child behavior and enhance the quality of parent-child relationships. PCIT has been deemed efficacious in treating children with disruptive behavior disorders, and recent studies have shown promising results utilizing aspects of PCIT with children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), but none of these studies applied the entire PCIT intervention per manual protocol. The present study is the first to test the efficacy of PCIT, without modification, with families of preschool-age children with ASD without comorbid behavioral difficulties.

[Ideal models of good inpatient care for adults with intellectual disability: Lessons from England](#)

In recent years, a significant proportion of inpatient facilities for people with intellectual disabilities and/or autism has been de-commissioned in England. This has resulted in individuals with intellectual disabilities being sent to distant hospitals far away from their families and carers leading to challenges in follow-up, community care and interventions. The impact of de-institutionalisation, has often caused patient trauma, family distress and subsequent discharge difficulties. Not every individual with intellectual disabilities and/or autism requires inpatient care but inpatient care when needed has to be local, adequate and appropriate.

[Enablers to enhance school-based adolescents with intellectual disabilities' learning: A narrative approach](#)

Society has always understood individuals with intellectual disabilities from a stance of deficiency, resulting in limited expectations and prospects for school-going adolescents with intellectual disabilities. The study used the social model of disability to explore teachers' perceptions of enablers to enhance school-based adolescents with intellectual disabilities' learning and took cognisance of a wave of policies aimed at including adolescents with intellectual disabilities in mainstream education.

Reports

[No wrong door: a vision for mental health, autism and learning disability services in 2032 - A vision for mental health, autism and learning disability services in ten years' time, for people of all ages in England](#)

Services for mental health, autism and learning disabilities need to change. This report sets out what services should look like in 2032, with examples of where the vision is already taking shape in England.

Public Advice

[New family carer resource – Disability Related Expenditure \(DRE\)](#)

Families are telling us that the costs that their relatives incur due to their disability are increasing. Use this resource to make sure that these costs are being considered when your Local Authority calculate how much your relative should contribute towards their care and support.

If you feel that your relative's disability related costs have increased you can request a disability related expenditure assessment to update these costs using the template letter included in this resource.

Conference Report

[Growing older with learning disabilities: how to support people as they age](#)

Life expectancy for people with learning disabilities has improved in recent decades and many are living to later life. Chronological age though cannot be taken as a reliable indicator of age-related needs as each person will have different disabilities and circumstances. Older people with a learning disability are also more likely to develop serious health problems due to late diagnosis because of difficulties in communicating symptoms.

Growing Older with Learning Disabilities (GOLD) is an initiative facilitated by Bild (British Institute of Learning Disabilities) that aims to support people with learning disabilities as they age.

Blogs

[Protecting Our Human Rights](#)

Blog from Gary Bourlet, Membership and Engagement Lead at Learning Disability England.

As you may know, the government wants to replace The Human Rights Act with a Bill of Rights. This has raised some concerns for me and our members about how our human rights will be affected if this happens.

[The hidden world of non-visible disabilities](#)

For International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022, we invited Dr Elohor Ijete, currently completing FY3 year in forensic psychiatry, to write about non-visible disabilities. Elohor is the main carer of her mother (Dr Onikepe Ijete) who is a psychiatrist and who has a physical disability.

News

['We bring something fresh': the theatre companies exploding myths about disability](#)

Not Your Circus Dog's new show is a riotous upending of audiences' preconceptions of disability and neurodivergence. It joins a swelling movement of similar collectives rewriting the stage rulebook.

[Common and rare autism-linked variants share functional effects](#)

Along 16p, the short arm of chromosome 16, a group of common variants and a rare deletion associated with autism seem to have overlapping effects on gene expression, a new study finds.

[Charity urges government not to write off autistic children's chance of an education](#)

Ambitious about Autism has launched a new campaign which calls on the government to protect funding for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) and ensure they have access to a good education.

[Number of under-18s in contact with mental health, learning disability and autism services rises by nearly one third](#)

More than three million people were in contact with mental health, learning disability and autism services in 2022, according to the latest NHS digital data. The overall total has risen by almost a fifth in the last three years, with a significant rise (29%) in the number of under 18s in contact with these services.

[Older people with a learning disability need greater social care priority to avoid inappropriate transitions](#)

The needs of older people with a learning disability and behaviours that challenge others must be given greater priority in social care policy to avoid inappropriate home placements, according to new research.

[New GP resources to support people with learning disabilities from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds](#)

The learning disability charity Mencap has created new GP resources to support people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds when accessing healthcare services.