

Studies

[Autism diagnosis in females by eating disorder professionals](#)

It is well established that autism and eating disorders often co-occur. Females are less likely to be diagnosed with autism and tend to receive a diagnosis later in life than males. Therefore, during eating disorder treatment at higher levels of care, eating disorder professionals may be the first to recognize autism in their female patients.

[Fidelity to the ACT SMART Toolkit: an instrumental case study of implementation strategy fidelity](#)

Evidence-based practices (EBPs) are shown to improve a variety of outcomes for autistic children. However, EBPs often are mis-implemented or not implemented in community-based settings where many autistic children receive usual care services. A blended implementation process and capacity-building implementation strategy, developed to facilitate the adoption and implementation of EBPs for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in community-based settings, is the Autism Community Toolkit: Systems to Measure and Adopt Research-based Treatments (ACT SMART Toolkit).

[A scoping review to inform an auditing framework evaluating healthcare environments for inclusion of people with intellectual disability and/or autism](#)

People with intellectual disability and/or autism are likely to be in hospital more often, for longer, and have poorer health outcomes. Few audit tools exist to identify their barriers in mainstream healthcare environments. This study aimed to identify evidence of audit characteristics of healthcare contexts specifically for people with intellectual disability and/or autism, for conceptual development of an auditing framework.

[Linearly integrating speed and accuracy to measure individual differences in theory of mind: Evidence from autistic and neurotypical adults](#)

It has long been theorised that there is a direct link between individual differences in social cognition and behaviour. One of the most popular tests of this theory has involved examination of Theory of Mind (ToM) difficulties in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). However, evidence for associations between ToM and social behaviour is mixed, both when testing the ToM explanation of ASD and when investigating individual differences in ToM in the general population. We argue that this is due to methodological limitations of many ToM measures, such as a lack of variability in task performance, inappropriate non-ToM control tasks, and a failure to account for general mental ability. To overcome these issues, we designed a novel task, which probed individual differences in ToM fluency through mental state attribution in response to cartoons (Cartoons Theory of Mind [CarToM] task).

[How do primary care providers and autistic adults want to improve their primary care? A Delphi-study](#)

Autistic adults often experience health problems and a range of healthcare barriers. Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate barriers and explore how primary care providers and autistic adults want to improve their primary healthcare.

[Review and update of the Health of the Nation Outcome Scales for People with Learning Disabilities \(HoNOS-LD\)](#)

Aims: To revise and improve the HoNOS-LD's utility in contemporary intellectual disability (ID) services whilst retaining its original objectives and five-point severity ratings.

[Mindfulness-based stress reduction for autistic adults: A feasibility study in an outpatient context](#)

Autistic adults report high stress and impaired ability to cope with stressors. Mindfulness-based stress reduction targets individual's own resources to regulate stress responses. An open feasibility study was conducted in an outpatient context, recruiting autistic adults without intellectual disability. The intervention, guided by trained mindfulness-based stress reduction teachers, followed the contents of the standard manual while adapting the delivery to autistic adults' needs.

News

[Ruth Carper: Imaging the aging brain in autistic adults](#)

For more than a decade, Ruth Carper has noticed a troubling pattern in the neuroimaging literature on autism: Every review article seems to say that scientists don't know much about older autistic adults. Some studies have identified differences between autistic and non-autistic adults, but typically at only a single time point, not over multiple years. Carper, research associate professor of psychology at San Diego State University in California, decided to address this gap.

[Autism intervention before age 2 may aid social, language skills](#)

Autistic toddlers who receive a personalized intervention at about 18 months of age show greater gains in expressive language, social communication and daily living skills than do autistic children who start the therapy at 27 months, according to a new study.

[Renting your own place](#)

Learning Disability England has been working in partnership with researchers from the University of York and the University of Bristol, Riverside, Housing LIN and Stephen Lee Hodgkins on a research project. The project team also has an advisory group of self-advocates with lived experience from York People First and My Life, My Choice.

['I was given days to find myself a place to live': autistic teenager on care home eviction](#)

Callum McDonald describes how he and others coped when made to leave their settled homes by the private, profit-making owner.

[ADHD charities question impartiality of BBC documentary on private assessments](#)

A number of charities have slammed a recent BBC documentary that examined private assessments for the diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

[New Welsh guidance on how to support parents with learning disabilities](#)

The Welsh government has produced new guidance for social workers working with families where the parent has a learning disability, with the aim of preventing children being taken into care.

[Autistic teenager was stuck on general hospital ward for months](#)

An autistic girl aged 16 spent nearly seven months in a busy general hospital due to a lack of suitable children's mental health services in England.

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
Community and Mental Health Services

23 May 2023

[Mental health conditions may present differently in people with learning disabilities, charities say](#)

Research shows that around a quarter of people with learning disabilities have symptoms of common mental health problems, while one study estimates that more than half (54%) of people with a learning disability have a mental health problem.

[New guide for first responders on how to recognise autistic meltdowns](#)

A new guide for police officers and other professionals who may come into contact with an autistic person experiencing a meltdown has been developed.