

Studies

[Pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions for irritability in autism spectrum disorder: a systematic review and meta-analysis with the GRADE assessment](#)

Numerous interventions for irritability in autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have been investigated. We aimed to appraise the magnitude of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions for irritability in ASD without any restrictions in terms of eligible interventions.

[The hidden curves of risk: a nonlinear model of cumulative risk and school bullying victimization among adolescents with autism spectrum disorder](#)

School bullying victimization (SBV) occurs more frequently in students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in general education than in special classes, and there is a cumulative risk effect on SBV exposure among young people with ASD reported by their parents and teachers. However, SBV is a personal experience, the predictive patterns of cumulative risk on SBV reported by themselves and its psychological mechanism remain unclear. This study aims to explore the relationship between cumulative risk and SBV based on self-report, and to test whether internalizing problems mediates this relationship among adolescents with ASD placed in regular classes.

[Understanding the contribution of intellectual disabilities nurses. Paper 4 of 4 - Impacts of intellectual disability nursing interventions](#)

Internationally, there is a wide variety of roles and expectations for intellectual disabilities nurses, and the range of nursing interventions they undertake in this field has not been clearly identified. In this paper we report the impacts of intellectual nursing interventions from an online survey of intellectual disability nurses.

[Non-psychologist practitioners' views of cognitive assessment reports: An evaluation of a learning disability child and adolescent mental health service](#)

This report details a service evaluation for a learning disability child and adolescent mental health service. The project aimed to explore nonpsychologist healthcare professionals' views of the accessibility and utility of cognitive assessment reports produced in the service. Semistructured interviews were conducted with eight healthcare professionals.

[Differences in Telemedicine Use Between People With and Without an Intellectual or Other Developmental Disability During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Telemedicine utilization of people with an Intellectual or Other Developmental Disability (IDD) during the COVID-19 Pandemic is not well known. This study compares telemedicine utilization of those with and without IDD prior to the pandemic to after it began.

[Remembering the future; prospective memory across the autistic adult's life span](#)

Prospective memory helps us to remember to perform tasks in the future. Prospective memory can be either time or event based. The goal of this study was to determine time- and event-based prospective memory in autistic adults across the life span.

[Employment profiles of autistic people: An 8-year longitudinal study](#)

Autistic adults experience high rates of unemployment, yet research investigating what predicts employment success produces inconsistent results. By utilising longitudinal person-oriented analyses, this study aimed to identify employment trajectories of autistic adults to better understand what may predict stable autistic employment.



[Made to feel different: Families perspectives on external responses to autism and the impacts on family well-being and relationships](#)

This study aimed to investigate the impact of external factors on the experiences and family relationships of autistic adolescents and their families. A qualitative approach was used, with in-depth interviews conducted with 30 participants, including autistic adolescents, siblings and parents from within families with an autistic adolescent family member.

[Photographic visualization of stories: documenting the experiences of people with intellectual disabilities with guided photovoice](#)

People with intellectual disabilities are often excluded from participation in research, whilst research has the potential to enhance positive change in their lives. In the current study, using a guided photovoice procedure, the experiences of people with intellectual disabilities regarding participation in research are evaluated.

[Examining the associations among knowledge, empowerment, and advocacy among parents of transition-aged youth with autism](#)

Parents of individuals with autism face many challenges in accessing appropriate services and supports for their offspring. Parents also play vital roles in advocating for their offspring's rights and needs. Furthermore, despite advocacy programs becoming increasingly common, it remains unclear how to best foster advocacy among parents of individuals with autism.

[The diversity of speech-perception difficulties among autistic individuals](#)

Communicative and sensory differences are core autistic traits, yet speech-perception abilities and difficulties among autistic individuals remain poorly understood. Laboratory studies have produced mixed and inconclusive results, in part because of the lack of input from autistic individuals in defining the hypotheses and shaping the methods used in this field of research.

[Maternal Autistic Traits and Adverse Birth Outcomes](#)

Women with a high level of autistic traits in the general population may experience larger health disparities during pregnancy, particularly women diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which in turn may be associated with increased risk of adverse birth outcomes.

[Expanding considerations for treating avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder at a higher level of care](#)

Existing descriptions of the treatment of avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID) at higher levels of care (HLOC) for eating disorders are limited, despite HLOC settings frequently serving patients with ARFID. The purpose of this commentary is to expand on the preliminary literature that describes pediatric ARFID treatment at HLOC by describing two specific components of our approach to treating pediatric ARFID that may not yet have traction in the current literature.

Study Summaries

[How creativity unlocks understanding: exploring qualitative research methods with neurodivergent children](#)

Enhanced recognition of neurodivergence as a natural variation in human minds that is valuable and in need of support is steering a significant shift in science and research towards a non-pathologizing approach to neurodevelopmental differences, such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (Chapman R. et al, 2021).



Blogs

[Why do we need Learning Disability psychiatrists in Learning Disability liaison teams?](#)

Professor Cath Bright reflects on the importance of having Learning Disability (LD) psychiatrists as a part of the LD liaison teams.

News

[Social care crisis having a "devastating" impact on people with learning disabilities](#)

Despite a £7.5bn funding boost for the adult social care sector in 2022, there has been no "tangible change" or "any significant progress towards 'fixing adult social care'," according to the Chief Executive of Care England. This comes following the publication of the annual 2023 Sector Pulse Check report by Hft and Care England, which revealed that care providers are grappling with staff shortages and financial constraints.

[Anger over suspended sentences for Whorlton Hall abusers](#)

Campaigners are dismayed by the sentences given to four former members of staff who abused people with learning disabilities at Whorlton Hall in 2019. The four men have received suspended sentences of four months, three months, and six weeks respectively, along with over 200 hours of unpaid work each. This means none of the abusers will go to prison provided they commit no further offences and comply with any requirements.

['We equate verbal fluency with intelligence': why Angie Kim wrote a novel about a non-speaking autistic boy](#)

Almost two decades ago, I went to a medical conference to learn about treatment options for my son's ulcerative colitis. His doctor described an incident involving a non-speaking autistic teenage patient, who everyone assumed couldn't understand anything. His parents were mystified and frustrated because his repetitive behaviours, including screaming and hitting his head against the wall, were out of control. As they were telling the doctor that his teachers were sure this was a purely behavioural issue, the boy grabbed his sister's preschool alphabet toy and typed, help me it hurts.

['Prototypical autism' research is likely a dead end](#)

Efforts to define "frank" or "classic" forms of the condition build on several assumptions that the science has not yet borne out.

[Safeguarding adults enquiries: do you need consent?](#)

There is a common assumption that enquiries under section 42 of the Care Act 2014 require the consent of the adult. This is false and relies on a misunderstanding of the law, says Mental Capacity Act lead James Codling.

[Number of autistic people in mental health hospitals: latest data](#)

The latest monthly Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data shows that in December 2023:

- In total 2,030 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England
- 1,335 (66%) of these people are autistic
- There are 200 under 18s in inpatient units that are autistic or have a learning disability. Of these, 95% are autistic.



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

30 January 2024

[Update from our Let Every Autistic Child Learn event at the Houses of Parliament](#)

The education system isn't working for autistic children and young people. This is what we told MPs at our Education event yesterday. Due to our campaigners sending an incredible 6643 invites. 46 MPs attended alongside other important stakeholders and heard directly from autistic students about their experiences. We also explained how reform is desperately needed and recommendations of how to do this from our education report.

