

AUTISM and Speech and language

Shaniece Jacobs 2105737 ECEY6006

What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong neurological disorder which can have an effect on the way individuals interact and communicate with the world (national autistic society, 2023). According to the NHS inform (2023) autism is considered to be a spectrum as each person experiences their autism differently to someone else who may also have autism. Each child is unique and their experiences of autism is unique to them (University of Rochester medical centre, 2023)

Identification and Diagnosis

According to ASD Wales (2020), National autistic society (2023) and the World Health Organisation (2023) it is estimated 1 in 100 children have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). It is important to note that this is just an estimation, it is not the exact figures and it is a different number to those who have been diagnosed with autism (National autistic society, 2023).

Children with ASD present in a variety of ways, from showing strengths, difficulties and sometimes behaviours (ASD Wales, 2023). The way each child presents may be different to how another child presents. Signs of autism could include a child not responding to their name, avoiding eye contact, not talking as much to their peers as neurotypical children might or they could have repetitive movements such as stimming (NHS, 2022).

According to NHS (2022) for children to get accepted onto the ASD pathway a referral needs to be made. A referral can be made by a GP, a schools Inco or senco, the health visitor for children under the age of 5 or any other health professional who is in contact with the child. Once accepted onto the pathway there are a variety of different assessments that may be carried out. A child's assessment will vary and depend on each individual child and their needs (NHS, 2023).

Barriers

Lack of awareness about autism and lack of understanding how autism could affect each person with autism differently (Social care institute for excellence, 2017). According to Welsh Government (2016) the ASD SAP report had findings that would suggest the only way the lives of children and young people will improve is if society has an awareness and a better understanding of ASD.

Some children with ASD may have a wide vocabulary; they are able to communicate and talk about things in great detail whereas other children on the spectrum may have limited vocabulary or are completely non-verbal (NIH, 2020).

Some children who are non-verbal may find it challenging to communicate to others their needs and wants. Some children who are non-verbal may lead an adult over and point to something they or some children may cry or even hurt themselves when they cannot communicate what they need (national autistic society, 2023).

Some children may come across as being 'high functioning'. The term 'high functioning autism' is considered for those who have a strong intellect, they are able to communicate their needs more than another person who has a diagnosis of ASD. Even though they are able to speak and are regarded to be intellectuals they are still posed with difficulties in their day to day lives such as being unable to read people's body language (SLT for kids, 2023 and NIH, 2020). Other difficulties could include avoiding eye contact, lack of interaction with their peers, lack of emotional understanding, how to socialise and make friends by talking to each other (Chaidi *et al*, 2020, p.96).

Conclusion

To conclude autism is a lifelong disorder and is very broad in the way it present is different in some than it is to others. As it is so broad there are different barriers children will face, communication and social skills being one of them. These are both vital aspects of a child's life for both children who are verbal and non-verbal. Bandura's Theory. Practitioners play an important role for help children with their communication skills and social skills by modelling and letting children observe them to learn from them and their peers. Speech and Language support is the building blocks of a child's development (Cambria County Council, no

Strategies ~ non-verbal

PECs. Pecs is the picture exchange system which helps autistic non-verbal children to communicate their needs and wants with others, through the use of exchanging pictures. There are 6 stages to pecs the first stage is learning how to communicate with a singular card. Each stage progresses more for the individual by teaching them more skills for using pecs such as being able to locate the picture they want to use and communicating with different people, to extending their vocabulary but including more pecs and adding prepositions, adjectives and verbs (pyramid educational consultants, 2023).

Strategies~ verbal

For the children who are able to communicate verbally but may face barriers with social situations they may have a speech and language program that suggests support such as children participating in group talk about sessions. These sessions are designed to help children to learn and understand themselves and social skills such as listening, body language, conversation skills and awareness (Integrated Treatment Services, 2023). The talk about programme is beneficial for children with ASD and Speech and language needs as it helps them to build a better quality of life for themselves by knowing and having an understanding of their own emotions and the emotions of others, it helps them to build upon friendships and have a close network of supportive people in their lives. It can also have a positive impact on their behaviour by knowing what behaviours are acceptable and unacceptable (Alex Kelly LTD, 2021).

Reference List

Acorn autistic specialists (2023) Fees and funding. Available at: <https://www.acorn-autism.co.uk/fees-and-funding> (Accessed: 16 May 2023).

Autism Wales (2020) Autism: A guide for early years setting. Available at: https://autismwales.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/A-Guide-for-Early-Years-Settings_Eng.pdf (Accessed: 15 May 2023).

BMA (2019) Failing a generation: delays in waiting times from referral to diagnostic assessment for autism spectrum disorder. Available at: <https://www.bma.org.uk/media/2056/autism-briefing.pdf> (Accessed: 16 May 2023).

Cumbria County Council (2019) Supporting Children's Speech, Language and Communication Development in Early Years Settings and Schools. Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/537/1459/7037/17935/439869131.pdf?timestamp=4399016157#:~:text=Speech%2C%20language%20and%20communication%20skills%20are%20crucial%20to%20young%20children's.blocks%20for%20a%20child's%20development>. (Accessed: 16 May 2023).

Dhiman, B. (2023) How Social Environment Influences People's Behavior: A Critical Review. Available at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4417597 (Accessed: 16 May 2023).

Jayanetti, C. (2022) 'Autistic children wait up to five years for an NHS appointment', The Guardian, 2nd April. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/apr/02/children-with-autism-wait-up-to-five-years-for-an-nhs-appointment> (Accessed: 15 May 2023).

Kelly, A. (2021) 'Alex's Talkabout Tips... No 2 – Why are social skills important?', Alex Kelly LTD [blog]. 6th April. Available at: <http://alexkelly.biz/2021/04/06/alexs-talkabout-tips-no-2-why-are-social-skills-important/> (Accessed: 16 May 2023).

Kelly, A. (2019) 'DEVELOPING SOCIAL SKILLS IN SCHOOLS', The Link, (15), pp.8-9. Available at: <https://speechandlanguage.info/resources/perch/magazine/website-issue-15-the-link-magazine-2019.pdf> (Accessed: 16 May 2023).

National Autistic Society (2023) What is autism?. Available at: <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/what-is-autism> (Accessed: 30 April 2023).

National Institute on deafness and other communication disorders (2020) Autism Spectrum Disorder: Communication Problems in Children. Available at: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/autism-spectrum-disorder-communication-problems-children> (Accessed: 14 May 2023).

National Autistic Society (2023) Pre-diagnosis support - a guide for parents and carers. Available at: <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/diagnosis/pre-diagnosis/parents-and-carers> (Accessed: 16 May 2023).

Nelft NHS (2023) Referral information. Available at: <https://www.nelft.nhs.uk/services-essex-salt-referral/#:~:text=Referrals%20for%20speech%20and%20language,but%20this%20is%20not%20essential>. (Accessed: 16 May 2023).

NHS (2022) How to get diagnosed as autistic.
Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/autism/getting-diagnosed/how-to-get-diagnosed/> (Accessed: 15 May 2023).

NHS (2022) Signs of autism in children.
Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/autism/signs/children/>
(Accessed: 15 May 2023).

Provide wellbeing (no date) How much does the ASD assessment cost?. Available at: <https://www.providewellbeing.co.uk/knowledgebase/how-much-does-the-asd-assessment-cost/#:~:text=Our%20ASD%20assessment%20costs%20%C2%A3,is%20recognised%20by%20the%20NHS>. (Accessed: 16 May 2023).

Pyramid Educational Consultants (2023) Pecs Myths and Misconceptions. Available at: <https://pecs-unitedkingdom.com/pecs/>
(Accessed: 14 May 2023).

Reinekke (2023) Vectorstock [image]. Available at: <https://www.vectorstock.com/royalty-free-vector/rainbow-comet-vector-7847237> (Accessed: 30 April 2023).

SLT (2023) Picture Exchange Communication System. Available at: <https://www.slt.co.uk/speech-language-and-communication/one-to-one-therapy/picture-exchange-communication-system/> (Accessed: 14 May 2023).

Social care institute for excellence (2017) Autism: Improving access to social care for adults.
Available at: <https://www.scie.org.uk/autism/adults/main-issues/barriers-to-services> (Accessed: 6 April 2023).

University of Rochester Medical Centre (2023) Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children.
Available at: <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=90&ContentID=P02556#:~:text=Diagnosis%20may%20include%20imaging%20and,unique%20and%20has%20unique%20experiences>. (Accessed: 15 May 2023).

Welsh Government (2022) Autism assessments. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/atish16267> (Accessed: 15 May 2023).

Welsh Government (2016) Outcome Evaluation of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan: Final Report. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-07/160218-evaluation-autistic-spectrum-disorder-strategic-action-plan-en.pdf> (Accessed: 8 April 2023).

World Health Organisation (2023) Autism. Available at:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/autism-spectrum-disorders>

(Accessed: 15 May 2023).