

Autism Project Workshop

14th Sept 2023



Hambleton
Richmondshire
Locality Board

Autism Project 2022-23



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- Introductions

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- Outcomes from today's workshop
 1. More information about the project and the impact we are hoping to achieve
 2. A range of materials and resources which you can take away to use in your settings
 3. Information on creating autism enabling environments

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- The project so far....
 - Began in October 2022 with the aim of supporting children and young people aged 0-25 to thrive within education, with a focus on autism.
 - Established training sessions, workshops, resources
 - Able to expand what we can achieve over this academic year

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- Why this project?
 - NYCC data
 - Locality board SENCO survey

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- Unlocking Autism training
- ‘Think Sensory, Not Behaviour’ training around sensory processing needs
- Brick by Brick Lego Therapy training & resources
- Social Stories training

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- Enabling Environments – Communication

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



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What communication difficulties do students with autism experience in the classroom?

- Non-verbal
- Struggle with information processing
- Unable to use gestures to support speech (e.g., eye pointing)
- Avoid eye contact (uninterested)
- Repetitive or rigid language
- Narrow interests leading to uneven language development
- Difficulties in interpreting tone of voice & inference
- Struggle with group work

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- What will this lead to?
 - Difficulties with executive functioning – managing everyday skills, time management
 - Increased anxiety & overwhelm
 - Disengagement
 - Lack of self confidence & self-esteem
 - Distress

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- What can we do?



Top Tips

1. Make it slow
2. Make it visual
3. Make it literal
4. Model
5. Share expectations
6. Provide quiet spaces
7. Get to know your student

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0f2dt1t>

*'If you acknowledge our abilities we can shine brighter.
We have so much to say. Please hear us.'*

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- Enabling Environments – Sensory Needs

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What is sensory processing?

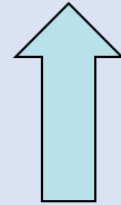
- Sensory processing refers to the ability to take information from our senses and put it together with prior information to make a meaningful response.

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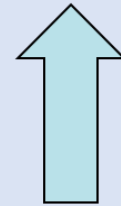


- Sensory needs are an ***essential part of long-term learning and development.***

- When sensory processing gets interrupted, learning and regulating can become more difficult.



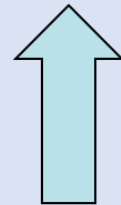
School Skills
Learning & development



With

Brain Skills
Listening, looking, emotional control, hand eye coordination, language, reading

and



Physical Activity Skills
Movement. Co-ordination, Balance, Writing



Sense
*Visual auditory taste smell
touch vestibular proprioception*

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[Too Much Information and Us | Sensory Overloads - YouTube](#)

- ***Students with autism have differences with perceiving and processing sensory information***

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- The Eight Senses- What are they?

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The Eight Senses

Visual	Taste	Smell	Auditory
Touch	Vestibular (balance)	Proprioception (body awareness)	Interoception

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[Me, My Autism & I | Vanish & Ambitious about Autism | Hero Film - YouTube](#)

- ***Dysregulation can be a sign of an unmet or change in sensory need.***
- Sensory ***dysregulation can cause significant anxiety and stress***, having a direct impact on the social, emotional and mental health needs of the student.

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What sensory challenges do students with autism experience in the classroom?

What can this lead to?

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- *Auditory processing challenges*
- *Anxiety*
- *Aggression*
- *Self-harm*
- *Withdrawal*
- *Inability to follow instructions*
- *Executive functioning difficulties*
- *Masking*
- *Overwhelm*
- *Burnout*
- *School avoidance*



Top Tips

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- Impact

- We want to support CYP with autism to enable them to thrive in education by increasing the knowledge and confidence of staff in meeting their needs
- At least 80% of settings to engage with the projects and support that we are able to offer
- A reduction in the level of support that SENCO's require as a result of the training and support accessed

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‘Really brilliant, thoroughly enjoyable. Came away with lots of super ideas to input into my setting’

‘Fantastic training!’

‘Really informative and plenty of food for thought going back into school’.

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- What's next?
 - Autism Advisory Referral Service
 - Support staff training workshops
 - Resource packs

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- Avenues of support
 - Autism project – staff training, advice, workshops, transitional support, signposting.
 - SEND hub – individualised support with specialists in the areas of ed psych, C&I, C&L, SEMH, physical & early years.

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- Q&A

We appreciate that due to the time constraints today we may not have time to answer all your questions, but please do leave your contact details and we will get back to you.