

ENFIELD ADVISORY SERVICE FOR AUTISM

Monthly Newsletter for Parents

July-August 2020

EASA's Parent Support This Summer

Although we have not been able to offer our usual face-to-face support in recent months, we have continued to work with families of children and young people on the autism spectrum in lots of ways. Our Cygnet course for parents has been running 'virtually', led by Enfield Educational Psychologists, and we have been exploring other ways to extend our 'virtual' offer.

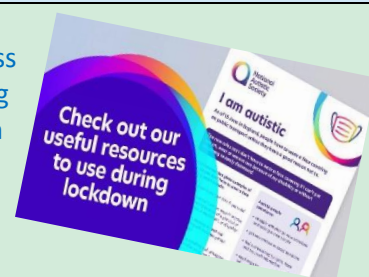
Our Parent Support Advisors, Marsha and Jacky, have been working hard on adapting our Parent Workshops and Coffee Mornings so that we can deliver these by Zoom over the coming months.

We continue to offer phone calls to parents to chat about any concerns or to signpost parents to further sources of help or advice. If you would like advice or a friendly chat, or you are interested in accessing parent training on a range of autism-related themes, please give us a ring or drop us an email and we will be happy to help. Our contact details are given at the end of this newsletter.



There are lots of helpful resources you can access on the National Autistic Society's website, including advice on how to support a child or young person with autism during the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/services/helplines/coronavirus>



or health reasons can travel mask-free.

If you would like advice on teaching your child or a young person about wearing protective items (or accepting others wearing masks or gloves etc. in public), EASA can help.

Travelling on public transport is a necessity for many people and lots of our children really enjoy going on buses and trains. You may have heard that face-coverings must be worn on public transport and this may be problematic for some people with autism. However, there are exemptions to the rules and those with disabilities

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Discrimination of any sort, including racism, is taken seriously by all members of the EASA team. As demonstrations and protests take place all over the world in recognition of the discrimination experienced by black people and other communities, we would like to express that EASA stands united with anyone who has experienced any form of prejudice.

EASA is a diverse team supporting a diverse community. We encourage everyone to celebrate strengths and differences amongst staff, children and families in our schools and communities. If you would like to talk to someone in our team about this, please get in touch.

“I am different, not less.”

—Temple Grandin

Back to school

Returning to school following any school closures may be a challenging time for pupils with autism. Although there will be aspects of school which will have remained the same, there will be lots of new changes and rules that pupils will need support to learn.

The National Autistic Society (NAS) has provided some suggestions for school leaders, teachers and teaching/classroom assistants to help prepare for and manage this transition. Please visit their website to find out more:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/services/helplines/coronavirus/updates/education-and-school/teachers-back-to-school.aspx>

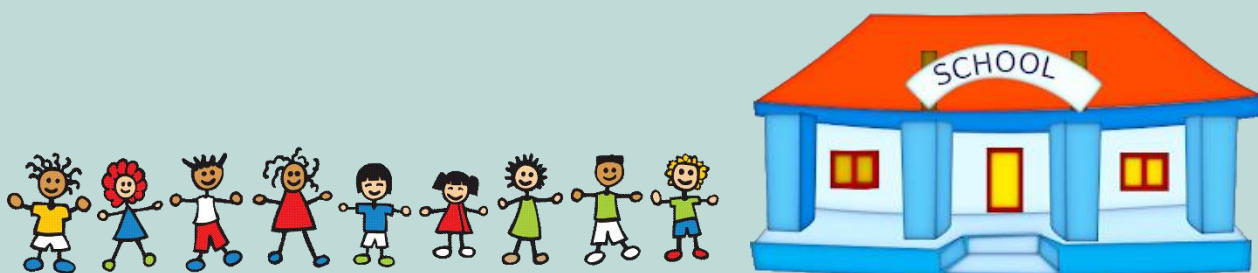
Please talk to your school's SENCO about what preparations they have made.

Social Stories

We have a range of Social Stories on our website that can be adapted and shared with your child on:

- going back to school
- staff and pupils wearing masks

Please visit our website: <https://enfieldasa.org.uk/Coronavirus-COVID-19/>



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