challenging behaviour
Learning Disabilities and Autism research
Asperger Syndrome mental capacity health information
quality of life intellectual disabilities carers

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Studies

[Toward Inclusive Approaches in the Design, Development, and Implementation of eHealth in the Intellectual Disability Sector: Scoping Review](#)
The use of eHealth is more challenging for people with intellectual disabilities (IDs) than for the general population because the technologies often do not fit the complex needs and living circumstances of people with IDs. A translational gap exists between the developed technology and users' needs and capabilities. User involvement approaches have been developed to overcome this mismatch during the design, development, and implementation processes of the technology. The effectiveness and use of eHealth have received much scholarly attention, but little is known about user involvement approaches.

["It's not about wanting to be thin or look small, it's about the way it feels": an IPA analysis of social and sensory differences in autistic and non-autistic individuals with anorexia and their parents](#)
Despite increasing evidence to support an overlap between autism and anorexia nervosa (AN), underlying mechanisms remain poorly understood. Social and sensory factors have emerged as promising targets in both autism and AN, however there remains scope to compare these differences across autistic and non-autistic experiences of AN. Drawing on dyadic multi-perspectives, this study explored experiences of social and sensory differences in autistic and non-autistic adults and their parents and/or carers.

[Repetitive and restricted behaviors and interests in autism spectrum disorder: relation to individual characteristics and mental health problems](#)
Although repetitive and restricted behaviors and interests (RRBIs) may interfere with well-being and functioning in autistic individuals, research on their relation to sex, age, cognitive level, and mental health problems remains unclear. Much of the research to date has used broad categorizations rather than specific categorizations of RRBIs to examine the difference in RRBIs between individuals. The purpose of this study was to explore, in different groups of individuals, the presence of specific RRBI subtypes, and to examine the association of specific RRBI subtypes with symptoms of internalizing and externalizing behaviors.

[Social workers' perceptions of intimate relationships of people with intellectual disabilities in residential settings](#)
People with intellectual disabilities still struggle to enjoy intimate and sexual relationships. Social workers have a potentially key role in realizing the intimate and sexual rights of people with intellectual disabilities, particularly in residential settings. However, we still know relatively little about the meaning social workers attribute to such relationships.

[Well-Being of Families with a Child with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities](#)
In disability research, there is an increased focus on the well-being of families with a child with a disability, also known as family quality of life (FQOL). However, the well-being of families with a child with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities (PIMD) has not yet been explored, even though their well-being may be affected by the pervasive support needs they need to manage. In turn, sufficient well-being of the family is necessary to guarantee adequate support and thus well-being for the person with PIMD. The purpose of this study was to examine the well-being of families with a child with PIMD, including possible differences between parents and siblings, and how individual and familial factors are related to FQOL.

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[Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
In this article, we review the most recent changes in ASD diagnostic criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision, summarize evidence-based instruments for ASD screening and diagnostic evaluations as well as the assessment of co-occurring conditions in ASD, the impact of COVID-19 on ASD assessment, and directions for future research in the field of ASD assessment.

["Yes, I can bond." Reflections of autistic women's mothering experiences in the early postpartum period](#)
Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition affecting communication and social interaction. Much of the research regarding childbirth and motherhood is focused on non-autistic women. Autistic mothers may experience challenges communicating their needs to health care professionals and find aspects of the hospital environment distressing, indicating a need for more informed practice.

[Emotion dysregulation is heightened in autistic females: A comparison with autistic males and borderline personality disorder](#)
Emotion dysregulation is increasingly recognized as highly prevalent and impairing in autistic individuals. Yet, a large majority of studies have considered emotion dysregulation in youth only, and most of them did not consider sex differences in emotion dysregulation manifestation.

[Safety and Efficacy Associated With a Family-Centered Procedural Sedation Protocol for Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder or Developmental Delay](#)
Routine health care, whether physical examinations, blood sampling, vaccination, or dental care, is challenging and often traumatic for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and children with developmental delay (DD), often requiring physical restraint or being indefinitely postponed. Behavioral interventions are critical for effective treatment of these children; however, in many children who have had traumatic medical experiences, these interventions may not be successful. Pharmacologic treatment with oral sedatives may be insufficient to perform common minor procedures, while the intramuscular route, requiring physical restraint for administration, can deepen the fear and lack of trust these children have toward the health care system. We describe a consecutive case series using a family-centered integrated behavioral and sedation protocol for common medical procedures in these children.

[Sensory Adaptations to Improve Physiological and Behavioral Distress During Dental Visits in Autistic Children: A Randomized Crossover Trial](#)
Autistic children have poorer oral health and greater oral care challenges, which are often associated with sensory overresponsivity, than neurotypical peers. It is important to identify innovative solutions enabling dentists to successfully perform standard clinic-based procedures for this population.

Reports
[Education Report 2023](#)
It's the little things, being able to use a quiet room, not having to wear a uniform that feels uncomfortable or being able to use an exit pass to leave the classroom when you're too overwhelmed to speak. These simple things can change now and can make such a difference. That is what I have found from six months of working on the National Autistic Society's new Education report. I'm Jake, and I work in the policy team.

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Reviews

[Whorlton Hall Safeguarding Adults Review Published](#)
On the 25th May 2023, the Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership published the Safeguarding Adults Review: Whorlton Hall report.

Statistics

[Number of autistic people in mental health hospitals: latest data](#)
The latest monthly [Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data](#) shows that in April 2023:
- In total 2,060 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England
- 1,320 (64%) of these people are autistic
- There are 225 under 18s in inpatient units that are autistic or have a learning disability. Of these, 96% are autistic.

Blogs

[Behind the cover - a neurodivergence design by a neurodivergent designer](#)
In a new blog post, we hear from Emily who designed the cover of one of the issues of RCPsych Insight, a cover that features in our current exhibition of RCPsych Insight covers.

News

[Most paediatric wards are "unsafe" for children with mental health needs](#)
A new report from the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) says there are "significant risks" associated with caring for children and young people who exhibit certain high-risk behaviours on a paediatric ward.

[Charity uses VR technology to get people with learning disabilities active](#)
A learning disability charity is trialling virtual reality (VR) technology to encourage people with learning disabilities to get active. Physical activity has huge physical and mental benefits (such as improved fitness, strength, dexterity and resilience) but research by Activity Alliance found that nearly two thirds (59%) of people with a learning disability do not participate in sport.

[New study explains how people with Down syndrome can lead longer, healthier lives](#)
A new study published in The Lancet has examined 33 health conditions associated with Down syndrome and the risk of multiple morbidity across the lifespan.

[Tackling inequalities in care: The telephone remains key for human-centred care and support](#)
A blog by the co-production group that was responsible for the recent SCIE project, 'Tackling inequalities in care for people with learning disabilities'. This group has found the project so helpful and enjoyable to be part of, they named themselves the 'SCIE Fliers'. Made up of a group of experienced self-advocates, their insights and experiences were pivotal to the 'Am I invisible' resources that were produced earlier this year. This blog gives an insight into what they faced during the pandemic and the way things can be improved now.

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[Coroner rules neglect contributed to Sally Lewis' death](#)
A coroner has ruled that the death of a woman with a learning disability was caused partly by neglect.

[Just one in seven secondary school teachers have received autism training](#)
The National Autistic Society is calling on the government to ensure that all school staff are trained and educated about autism, after research by the charity revealed that just one in seven (14%) secondary school teachers have received autism training.