

Welcome to the new Neurodiversity Bulletin!

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Studies

[First Impressions Count: A Systematic Literature Review Exploring Parents of Autistic Children's First Encounters With Healthcare Professionals](#)

First signs of autism are typically noticed in a child's early development. When parents or carers first become aware of developmental differences in their child, they are likely to experience feelings of concern and uncertainty and may seek advice from healthcare professionals (HCPs).

[Effects of School-Based Interventions for Preschoolers with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Related Behaviors: A Meta-analysis](#)

A meta-analysis evaluating the effects of school-based interventions for preschool students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) was conducted using 12 outcome studies.

[Autistic and ADHD adolescents respond differently to upset in school: evidence from a new questionnaire co-designed from the neurodivergent point of view](#)

Rates of depression are elevated in autistic and/or ADHD adolescents, but the reasons for this are unclear. We have previously shown that autistic and/or ADHD adolescents experience twice the school-related emotional burden of the non-ADHD/non-autistic control peers.

[Autism Spectrum Disorders in Imprisoned Women: A Concise Systematic Review](#)

Research suggests that autism rates may be higher in justice-involved populations than in the general population, but studies have focused on men. The aim of this concise systematic review was to report on the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder in women serving prison sentences, and to describe their biopsychosocial and criminal history characteristics.

[ADHD and the female reproductive stages: menstruation, perinatal and menopause](#)

Gender differences in the presentation of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are well-documented, yet the interaction between ADHD and female reproductive stages remains underexplored.

[Autistic Masking, Neurotypical Mindshaping, and Self-understanding](#)

Autistic people often hide or alter their behavior in order to meet societal expectations and fit in—a phenomenon known as masking.

[Exploring Social Cognition in Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder using the Edinburgh Social Cognition Test](#)

Social cognition plays a critical role in the transition to adulthood for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), impacting outcomes in employment, relationships, and independent living.

[Efficacy and Safety of Ecopipam for Tourette Syndrome: A Phase 3 Randomized Clinical Trial](#)

Is ecopipam well tolerated and efficacious in children, adolescents, and adults with Tourette syndrome?

[Differentiating tics and functional tic-like behaviours in children and young people: personal and family mental health profiles and their clinical implications](#)

Personal and family mental health histories of youth with functional tic-like behaviours (FTLB) and/or tics (TS) were compared.

[Group Programmes to Improve the Skills, Confidence and Wellbeing of Caregivers of Children with Neurodisability: a Systematic Review of Effects](#)

Caregiver skills training programmes are well-researched in the fields of autism and intellectual disability, but children with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy remain underrepresented despite their high prevalence.

["I Feel Like They Were Made in a Very Neurotypical World": Autistic Adult Experiences and Perceptions of Social Rules, Instruction, and Laws](#)

Autistic individuals account for over one million people in the UK, and many more autistic individuals exist worldwide. This research employed an idiographic qualitative methodology to explore the perceptions and lived experiences of five autistic individuals as they navigate social rules, instructions, and criminal laws.

Podcasts

[When autistic kids grow up](#)

An autistic researcher's paper called attention to a huge disparity in autism funding research between children and adults. It nearly derailed her life.

[Podcast: The Power of Divergent Thinking With David Flink](#)

What if the problem isn't your brain, but the systems you've spent your life trying to fit into?

Blogs

[Listening to our dyslexic children and families](#)

This month, the British Dyslexia Association has been privileged to bring together two important sets of voices on SEND support in England.

["My Health Checklist for Women with ADHD"](#)

This is a PSA: Women's health is still not prioritized. And your health matters.

[Autism, Neurodivergence, Support Needs and Inclusion — What's New in May](#)

In this research roundup, Ann Memmott highlights, amongst others, new studies on self-identification, education, psychotherapy, dating and the additional health challenges faced by Autistic people.

News

[New survey shows nearly two thirds of school staff worry about keeping children with SEND safe](#)

Our charity has carried out a new survey which shows that parents, carers, autistic people and school staff are concerned about keeping children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) safe at school due to a lack of capacity and resources.

[Autism Alliance UK responds to SEND consultation in England](#)

The Autism Alliance UK is calling for systemic change for autistic children, young people, adults and their families. Developed with autistic young people and adults, parents/carers, researchers, clinicians and charities, and led by the Autism Alliance, the public policy report A New Path Ahead recognises the deep barriers autistic people continue to face - stigma and misunderstanding, weak or non-existent accountability, failures of planning/funding - and makes recommendations for governments across the UK.

[New petition launched calling for the introduction of the LDAN Bill](#)

National Autistic Society Scotland is calling on the Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill to be introduced as soon as possible in order to bring about real change for autistic people and their families in Scotland.

[Substance Use Disorder Doubles the Risk of ADHD Medication Cessation](#)

A new Swedish cohort study reveals that nearly half of adults with ADHD and substance use disorder stop medication within one year of a diagnosis, compared to one-quarter of adults with ADHD only.

[We analysed 14 million Reddit posts to reveal a striking shift in how we talk about mental health](#)

More people are relying on social media – such as TikTok, Instagram, YouTube and Reddit – to learn about mental health conditions and to interact with people who have shared experiences.

[MPs call for two-week response deadline from employers to disabled workers' requests for adjustments](#)

Work and Pensions Committee MPs have called for a two-week legal deadline for employers to respond to requests for reasonable adjustments from disabled workers in a report published today. The report added that rejections should be required to have written explanations.

[Why neurodivergent employees need a different kind of mental health support](#)

Workplace well-being is getting more attention than ever, but there's still a major gap in how employee support is delivered.

[Workplace Gaslighting Disproportionately Impacts Neurodivergent Professionals](#)

How to spot and protect yourself from workplace bullying and gaslighting as a neurodivergent employee.

[School trips aren't always accessible for autistic children – but they can bring huge benefits](#)

School trips are often remembered as a highlight of childhood education. Whether it's exploring a castle, visiting a museum or spending the day at a farm or zoo, these experiences offer something the classroom often cannot: learning that is immersive, memorable and often exciting.

[Sex on the Spectrum](#)

For neurodivergent adults, sex and intimacy present unique hurdles. Clear communication can light the way.

["Perimenopause Didn't Create My ADHD. It Exposed It."](#)

My entire life, I believed two things about myself: I was anxious, and I needed to try harder.

[On Finding a Healthier Way to Be a Man](#)

"When men with adult ADHD embrace rest, emotional expression, and community, we don't just redefine masculinity but live authentically."

[Study: Distinct Brain Mechanisms Drive Inattention in Children with ADHD vs. Anxiety](#)

Symptoms of inattention look similar in children with ADHD and anxiety, but the underlying brain mechanisms driving that behavior differ, according to a new study.

[Movement confidence or competence... impact of Developmental Coordination Disorder/Dyspraxia](#)

I was out walking yesterday where there was aware of some black ice on the path. While walking and staying upright it made me realise how I had changed my movements as I was concerned that I did not land on my backside!

[British Airways incident where a young boy with Tourette syndrome and his family were refused to fly](#)

Tourette syndrome remains one of the most stigmatised and misunderstood conditions, and that needs to change.

[Climbing together: a family's journey through dyslexia and the virtual everest challenge](#)

Many children with dyslexia describe school, revision and work as a constant uphill struggle, alongside a significant mental health impact: 59% of dyslexic children report being bullied or teased, and 70% say it makes them feel bad about themselves.

[Still no proof for facilitated spelling methods](#)

A systematic review into whether the "rapid prompting method" or "spelling to communicate" can help autistic people express themselves comes up empty yet again.

['Everyone is equal in this space': the cosmic world of neurodivergent-friendly club night Robyn's Rocket](#)

Trumpeter Robyn Steward thought clubs weren't for her until she encountered Fabric's accessible upgrade – the new home for her radically inclusive, space-themed night.