

Children with a Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Information and advice for parents

Introduction

Your child has recently received a diagnosis of Autism. This leaflet contains useful contact information for agencies that will be able to offer you further advice and support in the local area.

Support

Sandwell Autism Group

A participation group for parents, carers and practitioners who live and work with autistic individuals.

Search Facebook: **Sandwell Autism Group**

Email: sandwellautismgroup@hotmail.com

Phone: 07305 581739 (leave a message)

Autism Central

Autism Central aims to build knowledge and understanding of autism and empower families and carers to advocate for autistic people they support. They offer workshops, 1:1s and events which are run by individuals with lived experience, including autistic individuals themselves, as well as parents or siblings of autistic individuals. There is a variety of free resources on their website.

Website: <https://www.autismcentral.org.uk/>

Local support: <https://www.autismcentral.org.uk/hubs/midlands-delivered-contact-and-ambitious-about-autism>

Sandwell's Local Offer

The SEND Local Offer makes it easier to find information, support and services for children, young people, parents and carers and professionals.

Find out more about the provision available for Sandwell children and young people with special educational needs and their families and how to access it.

Website: www.sandwell.gov.uk/send

Sandwell Family Hubs and Barnado's

Family Hubs will offer the right help, in the right place, at the right time by offering services and support for all families in Sandwell with children aged 0 – 19 (or 25 with SEND). As one of the lead providers of Family Hubs, Barnardo's aim to ensure every element of their services is accessible for all families and offer specific SEND support, including:

Cygnets

Cygnets is Barnardo's 7 week programme for parents/carers of autistic children or children who are on the pathway to be assessed for autism. There is a Parent/Carer Drop in where you can ask any of those niggling questions, reach out for support or ask for support in accessing wider services. Week 7 is supported by CAMHS, AWM and SENDIASS to share information with parents/carers on different support avenues.

Stepping Stones

This is an 8 week programme which supports parents or caregivers of children aged 0 to 12 with a developmental disability.

Solihull Approach

This is a 10 week programme which focuses on containment, reciprocity and behaviour management.

Website: <https://www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com/journey/families-with-send/how-banardos-support-children-with-send/>

Helping Hands

A support service for families with an autistic child or a child with ADHD.

Their services include:

- Sharing rooms support sessions - learn coping techniques and share experiences with other parents
- Advice
- Workshops
- Family sensory sessions
- Parent wellbeing sessions

Website: <https://www.family-action.org.uk/>

Email: sam.edwards@family-action.org.uk

Phone: 07881 265 320

Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children (SPDC)

The service offers play and social opportunities for children with disabilities and their families. Social events are popular with families and are offered at different times throughout the year.

Website: <https://www.sp-dc.org/>

Email: info@sp-dc.org

Phone: 0121 565 2410

SCOPE

A charity that provides practical information and emotional support to parents and carers.

Website: <https://www.scope.org.uk/>

Phone: 08088 003 333

Activities

The Autism Play Project at University of Birmingham

The Autism Play Project is a fun, lively Saturday morning play session for autistic children, focusing on improving communication and social skills through play! The group also enables parents and carers to have some respite, and meet other parents and carers.

Search Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Autism-Play-Project-TAPP-University-of-Birmingham>

Email: tapp@guild.bham.ac.uk

SNAP (Special Needs Adventure Playground)

SNAP provides a safe, secure and non-judgemental play area for children and adults with special needs. Siblings are also welcome. Parents can relax for a while in the knowledge that their children will be safe.

Address: SNAP Playground, Pye Green Road, Cannock, WS11 5RW

Website: <http://www.cannocksnap.com/>

Email: snapcannock@outlook.com

Phone: 01543 579286

Flip Out Trampoline Park (Sandwell) – Autism Friendly Sessions

Sessions run weekly (term-time only) on a Tuesday evening from 6pm-7pm. £7 per person.

During the session, music is turned down low and disco lights are switched off.

Website: <https://www.flipout.co.uk/locations/sandwell>

Email: sandwell@flipout.co.uk

Phone: 0121 630 2590

Sycamore Adventure Playground (Dudley)

Inclusive Play Sessions – From the sensory delight of water play to the thrill of climbing, zooming on pedal go-karts, and expressing creativity through arts and crafts – every moment is designed for inclusivity and fun!

Address: Sycamore Green Adventure Centre, Old Park Farm Estate, Dudley DY1 3QE

Website: <https://www.sycamoreadventure.co.uk/come-play>

Email: play@sycamoreadventure.co.uk

Phone: 01384 813755

Dimensions Autism Friendly Cinema Screenings

Dimensions provide a list of autism friendly screenings across a range of cinema companies. Adjustments are made to reduce stress and sensory input, such as low lighting and sound, freedom to move and staff trained in autism awareness.

Website: <https://dimensions-uk.org/get-involved/campaigns/autism-friendly-cinema-screenings/>

Sassy Sensory Surprises

A world of sensory stimulation, play, fun adventures and learning for your child.

Sensory play advice and events can be found on the website.

Website: <https://sassysensorysurprises.co.uk/>

Sensory Room at Murray Hall

A safe and interactive environment, where the senses can be explored through exciting installations such as a bubble tubes, disco balls and back lights.

£5.00 for 1-hour per user. Discounts available for block bookings.

Each user can have one parent/carer (18+) accompanying them.

Call or email to book.

Address: The Bridge, St Marks Rd, Tipton, DY4 0SL

Website: <https://www.murrayhall.co.uk/>

Email: steven.carrigan@murrayhall.co.uk

Phone: 07838 156 883

StoryTeller Toddlers

Exploring stories through imaginative play!

Sessions for 0-4 year olds. Every Thursday during term-time from 10-11.30am. Entry: £2

Address: St Mary's Church Bearwood, Bearwood Road, Smethwick, B66 4BX

Website: <https://www.stmarysbearwood.org/toddlers>

Email: info@stmarysbearwood.org

Phone: 07726 956 901

Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT)

SLT offers a range of activities for children and young people at their leisure centres across Sandwell, including Aqua Mayhem, Holiday Camps and Roller Disco. For times and prices please check the SLT website.

Website: <https://www.slt-leisure.co.uk/>

Phone: 03000 120 121

Dudley Leisure Soft Play SEND Sessions

At Duncan Edwards, there is a SEN soft play session every Wednesday from 5.00pm - 6.00pm

At Halesowen, there is a SEN soft play session every Monday from 4.30pm - 6.00pm

Website: <https://www.dbleisure.co.uk/soft-play>

Dudley Leisure SEND Swimming Sessions

Swimming at Crystal Leisure Centre (Stourbridge) SEN Sessions every Thursday 6.00pm - 8.00pm during term time.

Website: <https://www.dbleisure.co.uk/crystal-leisure-centre>

Caudwell Children Sensory Packs

Affordable packs that are designed to support autistic children. Our packs are also fun, educational, durable and safe. Many of the items are compact, so they are suitable for travel or to take to school.

Website: <https://www.caudwellchildren.com/changing-lives/how-we-can-help/autism-services/autism-sensory-packs/>

Email: familyservices@caudwellchildren.com

Phone: 03453 001 348

Dance-ability - Inclusive Dance Classes

Dance and movement for young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their parents. Classes are on a Friday evening at 6.30pm – 7.30pm. £6 per session.

Address: Livingston Academy Of Dance, 36 Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, WS10 7DF

Email: rebecca.heathcote1983@gmail.com

Agency Contact Information in Sandwell

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

48 Lodge Road, West Bromwich, B70 8NY

Phone: 0121 612 6620

Inclusion Support

Connor Education Centre, Connor Road, West Bromwich, B71 3DJ

Phone: 0121 569 2777

Inclusion Support Early Years (ISEY)

Coneygre Early Years and Child Development Centre, Sedgley Road East, Tipton, DY4 8UH

Phone: 0121 569 2860

Paediatric Department

Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, Grove Lane, Smethwick, B66 2QT

Phone: 0121 553 1831 - Ask for the ward/service you wish to contact

Children's Therapies Service (Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy)

The Lyng Centre, Frank Fisher Way, West Bromwich, B70 7AW

Phone: 0121 612 2345

Further Advice

Autism West Midlands

AWM provides a wide variety of support for autistic children and young people and their families.

Email: info@autismwestmidlands.org.uk

Website: <https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/>

Phone: 0121 450 7575

National Autistic Society

The National Autistic Society provides information, support and campaigning for a better world for autistic people.

Website: <https://www.autism.org.uk/>

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

Offering impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. This service is impartial, confidential and free.

Website: <https://www.sandwellsendiass.co.uk/>

Phone: 0121 289 2566

Cerebra: Sleep Advice Service

This service offers information guides and one-to-one support with strategies on how to help your child with their sleep.

Website: <https://cerebra.org.uk/get-advice-support/sleep-advice-service/>

Email: sleep@cerebra.org.uk

Phone: 01267 244 200

Raising Children

An Australian website with parent friendly advice and information for autistic children and young people.

Website: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/autism>



If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact SWB Library Services on ext 3587 or email swbh.library@nhs.net.



A Teaching Trust of The University of Birmingham
Incorporating the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, City Health Campus, Sandwell Health Campus and Rowley Regis Hospital.

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ML5707

Issue Date: December 2024

Review Date: December 2027