

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. The internet is full of information regarding autism. The most reliable sources of information can be found on the organisations websites below:

The National Autistic Society

The site includes information about autism and Asperger syndrome, and about the support and services available in the UK for:

- People with an autistic spectrum disorder
- (autism or Asperger syndrome)
- The family
- Professionals
- Journalists

<http://www.nas.org.uk/>

Autism Education Trust

<http://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/>

Local support groups include: • SASSI Solihull Autistic Spectrum Support and Information, they run events and organise talks on relevant topics – contact janbrad55@hotmail.com or phone 0121 770 6267 or website below.

Solihull Autistic Spectrum Support and Information

<http://www.autismlinks.co.uk/support-groups/group-support-west-midlands/solihull-autistic-spectrum-support-information-sassi?region=>

Aspergers information and resources

<http://www.aspergersyndrome.org/>

If you are concerned that your child may have autistic traits please discuss this with your child's class teacher. Where the school agrees that there is reason to believe a child has autism, we will support you to complete a Meadow Centre referral form. This is the approved Solihull route for diagnosis.

Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a common learning difficulty that affects the way people read and spell words. It is thought that up to 1 in 10 people in the UK has a certain degree of dyslexia. Children with mild dyslexia will take longer to learn to read and write, children with severe dyslexia will need additional help to get there. There are many organisations claiming to diagnose dyslexia. Be warned, many of these diagnoses are not valid. An optician cannot diagnose dyslexia!

Diagnoses from a qualified practitioner registered with the BDA could cost in the region of £300. If you feel your child is dyslexic please speak to their class teacher who will refer your child to the SENCO. If we see that there is reason to believe your child is dyslexic we will call in specialist teachers to conduct the appropriate tests, ensure effective teaching interventions are put in place and then request a dyslexia diagnosis from the Solihull Dyslexia Panel. This is a long process and referrals are very unlikely to be made before the child is in KS2 (year 3 and above). A reliable and useful source of information on dyslexia can be found on:

British Dyslexia Association website.

www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/

Dyslexia Association website

<http://www.dyslexia.uk.net/>

Speech and Language

Talking Point is a resource all about children's speech, language and communication designed for parents, people that work with young children and young people themselves. It contains information about supporting children's speech and language development and helps you to identify if a child is having difficulties or falling behind. If they are struggling, it tells you what you want to do.

<http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk/>

The Communication Trust is a consortium of over 40 voluntary sector organisations that bring together their expertise to ensure that speech, language and communication needs of all children are met. To find out more, go to:

<http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/>

At Fordbridge Community Primary School, we use an Intervention programme, called Language Link, which identifies individual pupils difficulties with Language skills and devises Speech and Language programmes, which are taught in small groups and sometimes 1:1 as part of an Intervention programme. The school uses these assessments with pupils in Nursery and Reception, as well as with any pupil that there is a concern with language development.

If you think your child's speech or language are not developing as they should, please speak to your child's teacher, he/she can instruct the SENCO to make a referral to the Paediatric Speech therapy team.

Sleep

It is essential that children get enough sleep. Children need sleep in order to grow and develop normally and to concentrate on learning at school. There are many reasons why children may not get enough sleep and there is plenty of advice out there. Below are two websites that you may find useful.

- An excellent guide for parents can be found at: [http:](http://www.sleepcouncil.org.uk/pdf-downloads/the_good_night_guide_for_children.pdf)

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Your GP can also refer your child to a service called Sleep solutions. They work closely with your local authority, the NHS and most importantly, you and your family, to work out what services you need.

<http://www.scope.org.uk/support/service-directory/sleep-tailored-service-for-families-Solihull>

There is also excellent advice on the NHS website, just google sleep problems in children nhs

Support services for parents of pupils with SEND

Support Services for parents of pupils with SEN include: Parent Partnership Services (PPS) offer independent advice and support to parents and carers of all children and young people with SEND. The nearest PPS can be located via

<http://www.parentpartnership.org.uk>. Contact: Solihull SEND Partnership Service, Prospects Services, Sans Souci Training Centre, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 4DD Tel: 0121 733 7290

The PPS will also provide information on how to access an Independent Supporter for those parents whose children are being assessed for an EHCP.

Independent Supporters aim to provide guidance to parents regarding the EHCP process. A FAQ fact sheet on Independent Supporters is located here

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/ox2q3cv>.

For parents who are unhappy with the Local Authority or school responses to their child's SEND, parents may seek mediation from the regional mediation services. Information on this free service is located here

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/gx5a8vq>.

Parents and carers can also appeal to the Government's SEND tribunal if you disagree with the Local Authority's decision about your child's special educational needs. You can also appeal to the tribunal if the school or council has discriminated against your disabled child. Information on this process is available here

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/ovq4so3>.

Solihull's Local Offer can be found via this link:-

<http://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/>

Other useful websites for parents

Sign Post Inclusion (Solihull)

<http://signpostinclusion.org.uk/>

Solihull SEND Partnership Service

<http://www.iassnetwork.org.uk/find-your-iass/west-midlands/solihull/>

Children with Special Needs (Government website)

<https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/overview>

Moving on to Secondary Schools – information for pupils with Special Needs

<http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/our-work/employment-education/moving-on-to-secondary-school/>

Parent and Carers support website for children with Special Needs

<http://www.special-needs-kids.co.uk/yourpage.htm>

Solihull Solo .org

<http://solihullsolo.org/>

Dyspraxia

Dyspraxia Foundation

<http://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/>

Epilepsy

The British Epilepsy Association

<https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/>