The Research Autism/Lorna Wing series of conferences and seminars presents

Disorder or Difference? Autistic experiences of school and beyond

Wednesday 14 November 2012, 9.00 am – 4.30 pm
Friends House, London NW1

Speakers:
- Professor Simon Baron-Cohen, Autism Research Centre, University of Cambridge
- Professor Neil Humphrey, University of Manchester
- Dr Jacqui Jackson, Scientific Advisor to Research Autism
- Luke Jackson, Author of *Freaks, Geeks and Asperger Syndrome*
- Laurence Mitchell, Freelance Trainer
- Dr Liz Pellicano, Institute of Education
- Lynda Tucker, Principal, Radlett Lodge School

A child’s experience of school is critical to their future social and academic development and their wellbeing as adults. This is a key issue for children with autism who may miss out on many of the usual opportunities, or whose experience of school can be traumatic or unfulfilling.

This conference brings together leading researchers, adults with autism, parents and education professionals to discuss research findings in this area and explore practical lessons as to how the school experience can be improved for children with autism.

The aims of this conference are to:
- Explore the concept of the autism as a difference, not a disorder, and the implications
- Understand the impact of bullying and exclusion and how to reduce it
- Discuss recent research on the nature of friendships in children with autism
- Discuss transition and life post school
- Explore autism-friendly approaches to the academic and social curriculum
- Discuss the impact of stress and anxiety on school performance, and what can be done about it

The day will be of interest to:
- Education professionals
- Health professionals
- Social care professionals
- Vocational support professionals
- Staff in the independent and voluntary sector
- Individuals with autism
- Families and carers of individuals with autism
- Journalists and other media representatives
- Government representatives
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter/Presenter Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 00</td>
<td>Registration and coffee</td>
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| 09 30 | Introduction of Chairs                                                 | Deepa Korea  
Chief Executive  
Research Autism |
| 09 40 | Welcome and Chairs' opening                                            | Lorna Wing  
Consultant Psychiatrist  
The National Autistic Society and Trustee of  
Research Autism  
Richard Mills  
Research Director  
Research Autism |
| 10 00 | Reflections on my life before and after diagnosis – setting the scene | Mr Laurence Mitchell  
Freelance Trainer |
| 10 30 | I want to play by myself – the nature of friendships in children with   | Dr Liz Pellicano  
Institute of Education |
|       | autism                                                                  |                                                                                                |
| 11 10 | Break                                                                   |                                                                                                |
| 11 30 | Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) vs. Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC):     | Professor Simon Baron Cohen  
Autism Research Centre  
University of Cambridge |
|       | is one small letter important?                                          |                                                                                                |
| 12 15 | Plenary of morning speakers                                            |                                                                                                |
| 12 30 | Lunch                                                                   |                                                                                                |
| 13 30 | LESSONS FROM RESEARCH                                                   | Professor Neil Humphrey  
University of Manchester |
|       | Bullying of children and young people with ASD: what do we know and    |                                                                                                |
|       | how can we help?                                                       |                                                                                                |
| 14 15 | My top ten tips for an autism friendly school: reflections of a life    | Lynda Tucker  
Principal  
Radlett Lodge School |
|       | spent teaching children with autism                                     |                                                                                                |
| 15 00 | Break                                                                   |                                                                                                |
| 15 20 | Freaks, Geeks and Asperger syndrome revisited: transition and life      | Luke Jackson  
Author  
Dr Jacqui Jackson |
|       | beyond school                                                           |                                                                                                |
| 16 00 | Plenary of afternoon speakers and Chairs' closing remarks               | Lorna Wing and Richard Mills  
                                                                                       |
| 16 30 | Finish                                                                  |                                                                                                |

How to book
- Book online at: [http://www.researchautism.net/booking](http://www.researchautism.net/booking)
- Telephone 020 3490 3091 to book using a credit or debit card
- Email [helen.finch@researchautism.net](mailto:helen.finch@researchautism.net) and ask for a booking form

Booking rates – book by 1 October for early bird rates!
- People with autism, parents and carers: £105 non-Friends; £95 Friends*
- Friends* of Research Autism: £121.50 until 1 October 2012; £148.50 thereafter
- All other delegates: £135 until 1 October 2012; £165 thereafter

*For details of our new Friends of Research Autism scheme please see [http://www.researchautism.net/friends/](http://www.researchautism.net/friends/)
Additional notes
The term autism is used to describe a range of complex neurodevelopmental conditions present from birth or early life. The characteristics of autism vary considerably but essentially affect instinctive social behaviour and communication.

Although individuals with autism may have many strengths, they may also fail to achieve their academic and other potential and may experience severe stress, bullying, and social isolation.

The causes of autism are not known although genetic factors are important. There are a host of treatments and other interventions but very few have been systematically evaluated. Over half a million children and adults in the UK are known to have autism.

Research Autism
Research Autism’s sole focus is on interventions in autism. We were established as an independent charity with the support of the National Autistic Society to address concerns of members about the dearth of high quality scientific research in this area. Working with individuals with ASC and with Cambridge University as our research sponsor, we have the active support of the most eminent figures from the world of autism. Our web-based information service, through which we disseminate research findings, attracts around 15,000 visitors a month.

Research projects
Research Autism is committed to a programme of research that is important to the autism community to improve their quality of life and support their social inclusion.

Please note
Every effort will be made to adhere to the programme as advertised. However the organisers reserve the right to make changes due to unforeseen circumstances. We regret there can be no refunds due to such changes.

No refunds can be made in the event of a delegate’s cancellation or circumstances of events beyond Research Autism’s control such as disruption of transport or acts of terrorism. Should a delegate be unable to attend, they may nominate another delegate in their place subject to permission from Helen Finch (tel: 020 3490 3091; email: helen.finch@researchautism.net).