Developing an understanding of children and young people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

For what age?	At what level?
All Key Stages	Any staff member working with a child with ASD or would like to know more about ASD

Why do school staff need to have an understanding of ASD?

All children and young people can get anxious and this is a normal as they grow up to develop their survival skills. However sometimes anxiety can occur too often and at the wrong time and this may affect a child's everyday life, development and relationships. Recent research suggests that as many as 1 in 6 young people will experience an anxiety condition at some point in their lives, this means that up to 5 people in a class may be living with higher levels of anxiety, whether that be OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder), social anxiety and shyness, exam stress, worry or panic attacks.

How can schools help?

Children who present as aloof, rigid and with social communication difficulties, need staff who have:

- A clear understanding of the Dyad of impairments and other associated difficulties, including how these can affect a youngster's access to learning.
- Understanding of the difficulties and strengths associated with ASD and of the concept of ASD.
- Knowledge about the pathway for staff to follow where there are concerns that a child may have ASD.
- An awareness of strategies that can used in order to accommodate the needs of youngsters with ASD.

How can I access training?

To access centralised training in ASD, including at the TaMHS Conference if appropriate, please visit:

- [LGSS I Learn booking website](#)

Training at your school, or within clusters, for your staff can be commissioned from the Educational Psychology Service by contacting the TaMHS Administrator: tamhs@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk or by speaking to your Link Educational Psychologist.

What do delegates say about this training?

Lovely intro to Autism.

Really good course - very helpful.

Very informative - thank you.

Northamptonshire
Educational Psychology Service

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Useful resources

- [National Autistic Society website](#)
- [NHS Autism webpage](#)
- [National Institute of Mental Health ASD webpage](#)