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Date 15 June 2020

Links to useful websites and resources online specifically for children with Social Communication difficulties and Autism during Covid-19

<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/covid-19-information-centre/>

The AET have produced a mini toolkit for teachers highlighting the six essential tools for supporting autistic children and young people through home schooling and return to school. These 6 tools are: Social stories, Visual timetables, Now/ next and first then, Reward charts, Strategies to address hypo/hyper sensitivities, Communication cards. **NEW**

<https://www.autismlittlelearners.com/search/label/COVID-19> - here you can find some more stories for younger learners including a going back to school story, plus some colouring sheets of people wearing masks. **NEW**

<http://www.starsteam.org.uk/coronavirus-resources> - Some really good social stories including 'what is lockdown and social distancing', 'what is social distancing' and 'why do I have to stay at home'.

<https://connectability.ca/category/kids/> - This is a Canadian website but it has a lot of free programs you can pick up and use with children and young people.

<https://connectability.ca/visuals-engine/> - A very easy to use tool to produce pictures to support a child's understanding. Not as comprehensive as Widgeit but may help some schools/ parents to get started.

<https://www.widgeit.com> - Widgeit produce a vast range of symbols that can be used to develop a personal timetable for children, to help generally with routines and to help children to focus on a specific adult led activity. Symbols help understanding and reduce anxiety. Widgeit are currently offering free and unrestricted access to Widgeit online and this includes some ready-made materials for 30 days.



<https://www.widgit.com/resources/popular-topics/index.htm> - Widget Boredom Busters. A range of ideas to keep children busy.

<https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/patients-and-parents/coronavirus-resources-for-children-and-families/> - FREE NHS information leaflets with symbols used. These easy read communication boards include social stories and cover topics such as: being at home, feelings, schedule and choose symbols for home, school is different, self-care kit and more.

<https://www.purpleella.com/> - Purple Ella is an autistic, inimitable, lover of purple. She is well known for writing and speaking about her family lifestyle with an added measure of autism and chronic illness in the mix.

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/child-friendly-explanation-of-coronavirus-by-manuela-molina-12267168> -There is a lot of useful information on the TES website. This is a child friendly explanation of coronavirus by Manuela Molina.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/services/helplines/coronavirus/resources/helpful-resources.aspx> -The National Autistic Society has produced a range of resources for Autistic People and their families. This includes daily schedules, activities and social stories.

<https://pecs-unitedkingdom.com/support-at-home/> -PECS is a unique alternative/augmentative communication system. At this time, many families are experiencing extended time at home with their learners without the usual level of support from educational teams. Pyramid is committed to providing free resources to families to make time at home a little easier and to encourage learning opportunities.

[http://www.sparkleappeal.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/cardiff%20vale-uni-health-board\(2\).pdf](http://www.sparkleappeal.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/cardiff%20vale-uni-health-board(2).pdf) - Supporting Children with Learning Disability/ASD Coping with COVID-19 Isolation. This is a link to an information pack which aims to support parents of children with an ASD or LD during this tricky time and will hopefully make things a little more manageable.

Downloads

28 Coronavirus Widgit Symbols including: pandemic, symptoms, self-isolate, vaccine and social-distancing

https://www.widgit.com/resources/popular-topics/coronavirus/coronavirus-widgit-symbols.pdf?utm_source=Widgit+Bulletin+List&utm_campaign=697df1f259-WIDGIT-JOURNAL-APRIL-2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ff234fd52c-697df1f259-501338279&mc_cid=697df1f259&mc_eid=4b92b8d348

Upset by the News – story/ explanation with symbols

https://www.widgit.com/resources/lifskills/personal-social/upset-by-news/upset_by_the_news.pdf

A critical care communication card

<https://www.widgit.com/products/health/covid19-chart-v2/english-covid-19-communication-chart.pdf>

Self-Isolating Ideas

<https://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk/media/schoolsinformationportal/contentassets/documents/steps/covid-19/Isolation%20Ideas.pdf>

Social Story helping to explain Coronavirus

A social distancing story <https://www.socialstories4kids.com/>

My story about pandemics and coronavirus <https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemics-and-the-Coronavirus.pdf>

Coronavirus story by Elsa support <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Childrens-story-about-coronavirus.pdf>

NAS Coronavirus – Top Tips

<https://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk/media/schoolsinformationportal/contentassets/documents/steps/covid-19/Top%20tips%20for%20autistic%20people.pdf>

NAS Coronavirus - Top Tips for Families

<https://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk/media/schoolsinformationportal/contentassets/documents/steps/covid-19/Top%20tips%20for%20families.pdf>