

ENFIELD ADVISORY SERVICE FOR AUTISM

Monthly Newsletter for Educational Settings

ISSUE NO: 7 – APRIL & MAY 2020

EASA's offer for April and May

Staff in the EASA Team are available to provide telephone or video-link support to staff in educational settings on a range of themes such as:

- Helping pupils understand safety advice and changes to routines during the pandemic
- Understanding Autism and the 4 Key Areas of Difference
- Individual pupil's learning needs
- Behaviour support
- Creating personalised or bespoke resources and strategies
- Our therapeutic interventions
- Help to evaluate your setting using the AET's Autism Standards
- Help to evaluate your own knowledge and practice using the AET's Competency Framework

Give us a call on 020 8353 4186 or email admin@enfieldasa.org.uk and we will arrange a call back.

EASA Advisory Teachers are working in partnership with colleagues at Russet House School to develop a range of Home-learning Activities which parents and children can do together at home while in isolation or during school closure. These will be added to the EASA website over time and can be shared with colleagues and families. Our current focus is on ideas suitable for autistic children at the earlier stages of learning (Pre-National Curriculum and Yr1 ARE).

If you have a request for activities on a specific theme or for pupils/students of higher ability, please send in your request.

Coronavirus COVID-19 Update

In line with Government advice, EASA has had to suspend all face-to-face and group events (e.g. training, workshops, coffee mornings and parent courses) at the current time. The Bell Lane centre will be closed until further notice. We are continuing to offer telephone and email support for school staff and parents. We are working together with colleagues in Special Schools and the Local Authority to plan support and provision for autistic children and young people, their families and those working with them during this period of national school closures. Please call or email for more information.

If you had a place on a course, or were due to have training delivered by EASA in your setting, we will be in touch regarding alternative arrangements as soon as we can.

Please see our website for links to the NHS and Public Health GOV.UK website for more information on the Coronavirus Pandemic.

<https://enfieldasa.org.uk/Coronavirus-COVID-19/>

Carol Gray, the founder of Social Stories, has written a Social Story for Pandemics and the Coronavirus. You can download this via the website:

<https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemics-and-the-Coronavirus.pdf>

The Autism Education Trust's AUTISM STANDARDS

why and how we use them

At EASA, we are very keen to promote the AET's AUTISM STANDARDS.

The Autism Standards are tools to enable you to evaluate autism practice across your setting. They provide a great starting point for development work as they help us to pinpoint the strengths and areas of need in your nursery, school or college. The EASA Team is then able to offer bespoke advice and support to help your school with autism-friendly provision.

Did you know, there are three versions of the Autism Standards?

Early Years, Schools and Post 16 versions can all be downloaded free of charge from the AET website (www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk) so you can choose the version(s) most appropriate to your setting. Each of them link closely with the corresponding age group training modules that we offer at EASA.



If you read our newsletter regularly, you will know we usually have a feature entitled 'Standard of the Month'. We choose a particular standard, explain why it's important and give suggestions on how educational settings can develop practice in this area.

During this period of social isolation and distancing, you may find yourself doing more desk-based tasks and/or working from home. This may be a great opportunity for SENCos or Autism Leads to work on the AET Standards for your setting. Get in touch if you would like support to do this. We are willing to talk you through it over the phone or via video link.



**World Autism
Awareness Week
30 March - 5 April
2020**

Had this been a normal week in schools, many of you would have been doing some work with your staff and pupils on autism awareness.

If you have a few minutes to spare, why not look at the latest information on the National Autistic Society website www.autism.org.uk? They have a wide variety of free resources for families and schools.

The NAS website also has useful information on the coronavirus and how the pandemic and social distancing rules have affected people in the autism community.

www.enfieldasa.org.uk

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autism
education trust

