

If your child has a **diagnosis of Autism or is on the Autism Pathway**, you may be interested in the following free courses being offered by the Communication and Interaction Team. If you have any queries about the courses, please email [paul.lamanna@devon.gov.uk](mailto:paul.lamanna@devon.gov.uk). To apply, please use the email address provided below.

Autism and Us Program:

No.	Topic	Programme 1	Programme 2	Trainer
1	Autism overview	Thurs 14 Sept - 10 – 12	Tues 31 Oct - 4.30 – 6.30	Paul Lamanna
2	Communication	Wed 20 Sept - 10 – 12	Tues 7 Nov - 4.30 – 6.30	Hannah Jones
3	Understanding and supporting behaviour	Thurs 5 Oct - 10 – 12	Tues 14 Nov - 4.30 – 6.30	Laura Matthews
4	Sensory	Thurs 12 Oct - 10 – 12	Tues 21 Nov - 4.30 – 6.30	Kevin Jones

**Apply direct by email to:** [educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk](mailto:educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk)

To secure a place on either of the above programmes, or express your interest for forthcoming programmes. We will confirm your booking request, and provide you with a direct link to the event. They will be delivered on line 'live' via the Microsoft TEAMS platform.

Additionally, we will also be offering the following very popular themed/topic based workshops, which lead on from the above programmes for themes/topics that may be a priority area for you against your child's presenting needs:

Topic	Date/Time	Trainer
DIAS (Devon Information & Advice Service)	Wed 18 Oct 10-12	DIAS Team
Autism – Sensory processing + integration	Thurs 16 Nov 9.30-12	Kevin
Autism and Girls	Wed 8 Nov 9.30-12	Rob
Autism – Demand avoidance + PDA	Wed 6 Dec 10-12	Rob
Autism – Communication (verbal – support strategies)	Tues 12 Dec 10-12	Hannah
Autism – Managing stress + anxiety	Wed 15 Nov 10-12	Alison

Autism – Vulnerability + online safety	Wed 1 Nov 10-12	Paul
Autism – Communication (pre/non verbal – support strategies)	Wed 22 Nov 10-12	Laura M

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**Topic workshop overviews:**

Workshop	Explore
Autism & Communication (Supporting strategies for verbal children and young people)	This workshop explores communication strengths and differences and how these may impact on daily life for verbal child and young people and families. It will support in exploring strategies to support child and young people around the following areas: how adult use of language can support and provide structure, self advocating through communication, how visuals can support communication and sharing communication needs with the wider family/support network.
Autism & Communication (Supporting strategies for Pre and Non-verbal children and young people)	This workshop will consider both language and communication and what is meant by a Total Communication approach. We will also consider practical strategies to support pre and non-verbal children and young people communicate through a focus on means, reasons and opportunity. Please note, this workshop is not appropriate for supporting children who are experiencing situational mutism.
Autism & Girls	This workshop seeks to explore the background of the diagnosis of autism in girls and why historically the female / male ratio has been significantly lower. We explore the key characteristics of girls with autism including areas such as possible masking, communication, social understanding and associated vulnerability. Subsequently we seek to highlight key approaches / strategies which aim to help to support autistic girls within the home / family context.
Autism & Demand Avoidance	This workshop seeks to explore the key characteristics of the extreme demand avoidance profile while outlining the diagnostic background and how this fits into the strengths and needs of autistic children and young people. Subsequently it explores the characteristics of this profile and how it may manifest through a child's behaviour. A range of strategies / approaches are highlighted with the aim of supporting children and young people in the home with an emphasis on an

	individualised approach which allows for the prioritising of goals to support family life.
Autism & Anxiety	This workshop will explore our understanding of anxiety and how autistic children and young people may experience and express their own anxiety. The workshop will also consider and provide how we can support and reduce their anxiety within the home / family context through a range of approaches and strategies.
Autism & Vulnerability	This workshop will explore some of the vulnerabilities that ALL CYP may experience growing up. But this workshop will specifically shine a lens on how an autistic CYP's profile may lead them to respond in different ways through their own developmental journeys. A range of approaches, strategies and supportive links will also be offered to support family life.
Autism & Sensory Processing + Integration	This workshop will explore the 8 senses, sensory integration and how this may affect how autistic children and young people respond to the environment and sensations they are feeling. It aims to raise awareness of sensory processing differences that may impact on an autistic person's life and provide a range of approaches and strategies to support through sensory regulation approaches within the home / family context.
Devon Information and Advice Service (DIAS)	This workshop will introduce DIAS; who we are and what we do. We will look at how you and your child or young person can engage with the decisions that impact you, including how to get best out of conversations and meetings about your child's support, how to share your views and those of your child, and understanding your options and legal rights. We will take you through our information and resources that may be relevant for you and your child or young person, and talk through how and when it might be most helpful to link with our service.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer West and Patricia Kent  
SENCO

**From:** early help south secure - mailbox <earlyhelpsouthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 12 September 2023 12:37

**Subject:** Autism and Us parent programme + topic workshops - Autumn term 2023

**Email sent on behalf of Paul Lamanna. Any queries to [Paul.Lamanna@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Lamanna@devon.gov.uk) please**

**Autism & Us programmes:**

- 4 weekly 'live online' sessions (approx. 2hrs each) related to the following topic/themes:

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