

This document contains information regarding;

- Support Groups
- Other Organisations
- Education
- Recreation
- Autism Specific Charities
- Care, Benefit Entitlement and Legislation.
- Miscellaneous

SUPPORT GROUPS

Bridport ASD and ADHD Support Group

Every other Wednesday 6.30-8.30

Bridport Children's Centre

Contact Emma [01308 458554](tel:01308458554) /Tasha [07969608268](tel:07969608268)

Yeovil Parent Support Group

3rd Wednesday of each month

Fairmead School, Mudford Road, Yeovil BA21 4NZ

Contact Steve Coles [01935 421295](tel:01935421295)

Gillingham Parent Support Group

1st Tuesday of each month 1.30-3pm

Gillingham Children's Centre

Contact Kirsty [01747 823562](tel:01747823562) kirsty@metamorphictouch.co.uk

Blandford ASD and ADHD Support Group

4th Monday of each month 10-11.30

Blandford Children's Centre

Contact Kevin Anthony [07776472746](tel:07776472746) /Caroline Anthony [07717361356](tel:07717361356)

ASD Dorset Support <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/ASDorsetSupport/?yguid=357570304>

This group hopes to access parents throughout Dorset who cannot access local support groups due to geography and timing. An online community providing a forum for parents / carers of children and young people in Dorset to discuss what matters to them, as well as providing access to information and documents around Autism Spectrum Conditions and Aspergers Syndrome.

The Dorset Parent-Carer Council <http://sites.google.com/site/dorsetpcc/home> Working for the parents and carers of disabled children and young people in Dorset: dpcc@talktalk.net

The Dorset Parent-Carer Council aims to:

- Provide a united voice by creating a forum for parents and carers views
- Work in partnership with departments of Health, Education, Child and Family Services, the Voluntary Sector and all other children's services providers
- Gather information from parents and carers and highlight common issues
- Work at national and local authority level representing the views of parents and carers on services for our children, young people and families

ASD Dorset; Useful Info

- Meet regularly as a council
- Keep parents informed on a regular basis
- Recognise and value the diverse needs of individual families
- Strive for the benefit of all children and young people with disabilities and their families, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, background, gender, sexual orientation or any other discriminatory factor.

Cascade www.innovatedorset.co.uk/cascade/

1st Wednesday of the Month at Toby's Young Peoples Project Shaftesbury from 10.30am.

Parent support network for parents or carers of young people with learning difficulties.

Cascade is an **Innovate Dorset** networking group for parents with children and young adults to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues or ideas in a friendly, safe and confidential way...

Many families within North Dorset, who have children with learning difficulties, struggle to find groups of adults to who they can speak and feel that they are not only listened to but they're ideas are received and experience is received in a positive setting.

In **Cascade**, parents support each other and build appropriate friendships between their families or children/young adults.

Contact Tobys [01747 850860](tel:01747850860) Anne Wilkins [07831107881](tel:07831107881) or Kevin Tatchell [07709137246](tel:07709137246)

Blandford Opportunities Group

Parent Support (1 Saturday a month tba)

Williams Opportunity Hall, Whitecliff Gardens, Blandford, DT11 7BU

Contact; Louise Anning Blandfordoppgrp@talktalk.net / [01258456187](tel:01258456187)

A-Stars – www.a-stars.org.uk/ club for families with a child with an ASD/Aspergers diagnosis.

Saturday mornings Asperger's Base at Budmouth Technology College, Chickerell Road, Weymouth [view map](#) every Saturday morning between 10.30am and 12.30pm,

Info@AStars.org.uk

Dorset ADHD Support Group www.adhddorset.btik.com/p_About_Us.ikml

Aim to inform, educate, empower and provide support to parents and carers of children and young people with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), adults with ADD, and those working within the professional field.

Dorset ADHD Support Group is run by volunteers. Dorset ADHD Chat room where you can 'chat' with other parents, carers and professionals online Monday's from 8.30pm onwards. We meet on a regular monthly basis -- all are welcome. We distribute a quarterly printed newsletter to our membership, and we also have a library of books and video available for borrowing. We can provide training for professionals regarding the appropriate support of people who have ADHD. We can provide advocacy for parents and carers of children and for adults with ADHD. We operate a telephone help-line service -- this number is our main point of contact: [01305 768297](tel:01305768297)

ASD Parent Support Group for parents and carers of people with ASD in Dorset. Holds bi-weekly meetings in Bournemouth during the daytime. Provides support, cascading and a chance to chat with fellow carers, and guest speakers are arranged. Memberships is free. Further groups are being held in Shaftesbury and Crewkerne. Contact Neil Eaton, Disability Wessex, [01202 312 085](tel:01202312085) asd@disabilitywessex.org

TIME4ME Friendly drop-in sessions at The Quay Advice Centre, Hill Street, Poole BH15 1NR for parents and carers who live in Poole and care for a child with:

- a disability

ASD Dorset; Useful Info

- special educational needs (SEN)
- concerns about exclusion from school

The sessions run between 10am-12 noon on 2nd Thursday of the month (excluding school holidays) For more information, contact PoPPs (Poole Parent Partnership Service) on 01202 261933 email: parentpartnership@poole.gov.uk

Hadleigh Practice Carers Group Meets 1st Thursday of the month, in the Village Hall; Corfe Mullen 2.30-4pm 01202 679384

Rainbow Parents Group Supporting Families who care for a child with any kind of special need. Poole Liz Silk 01202 679384

Hope Group that meets in different venues in Christchurch. Open to parents and carers of children and young people with special needs. Tina Potter 01425 271417 / Mel Harvey 01202 476388

LEAF (Listening Ears at Ferndown) Open to all parents and cares of children and young people with special needs. 01202 877445

Dorset CAPS (Carers and Parents Share) Offers parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities or special needs friendship, support and information. Monthly meetings at different locations Kiz Wilkinson 01929 550721 / 01305 781919

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Disability Wessex www.disabilitywessex.org.uk/view/view.php?item=57

ASD Information and Advice Service – in partnership with TWAS and Disability Wessex 01202 312085

Parent to Parent www.face2facenetwork.org.uk offers the chance for parents to have a “befriender” who is also a parent who has been in a similar position with a child. Parent beefrienders have been throughout nationally recognised training scheme and are CRB checked. Contact Chris Faulder 01202 699490

Carers association Dorchester Offers information and emotional support to all carers of children with special needs. Miss V Parker 01305 848374

Carers Link in Dorset Free information and support to all carers. 01305 251191
carerslink@helpandcare.org.uk

Contact a Family www.cafamily.org.uk / 08088083555. A charitable organisation helping families who care for children with any disability or special need. Provides support, contacts and liking between families.

Parentline 01702559990. A national helpline run by parents, aims to help anyone caring for children and finding it difficult to cope or just needing someone to listen.

Talk about Autism www.talkaboutautism.org.uk The online autism community.

AFASIC – Unlocking Speech and Landguage www.afasic.org.uk / www.talkingpoint.org.uk
Support information and meeting for parents and professionals involved with children who have speech and language problems 0845 355577

Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Continence. ERIC www.eric.org.uk
Helpline 08453708008

Challenging Behaviour Foundation www.thecbf.org.uk 01634838739 Provide support and information to parents of children with severe learning disabilities who display challenging behaviour. They run parents' email network and family linking scheme.

OASIS (Office for Advice, Assistance, Support and Information on Special needs) www.oasis.co.uk offers advice and information for parents with a child with special educational needs. We have a helpline, email enquiry service and many information sheets, available on our website. We are also the information service of Cambian Education Services and can provide prospectuses and other information about their seven residential schools and colleges for children/young people with autism or Asperger Syndrome. Helpline: 0800 902 0732 (Mon to Fri, 10am to 4.30pm) Email: oasis@cambiangroup.com

Parent Support's helpline hears first-hand from parents the stress of their caring role. It will be a great benefit to refer those needing help to a trained counsellor. Freephone Counselling Helpline Number: 0800 043 9385

Autism Help www.autism-help.org This site provides help with over 350 fact sheets of autism-related information, with an emphasis on practical strategies, as many families cannot afford the more expensive interventions, or may be geographically isolated and cannot access autism support services.

Dorset Scope www.dorset-scope.org.uk Education, care and support of people with physical or learning disabilities, even into adulthood. 01202 718266.

MENCAP www.mencap.org.uk 0808 808 1111
Provide advice and information for people with learning disabilities and their families and carers. They have a 'signposting' service.

The Dorset Child and Family Counselling Trust (DCFCT) www.dcfct.org offers information, advice and guidance and commissions counselling services for children, adolescents and families where there are emotional, behavioural or other mental health problems. Referrals through GP or other professionals.

Talk About Autism www.talkaboutautism.org.uk The online autism community hosted by TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education. TreeHouse is ambitious about autism. We believe that through appropriate education, it is possible to transform the lives of young people with autism and the lives of their families. Together with our sponsor TalkTalk, we have created this space for parents and carers of children with autism to share their experiences, in a safe and reliable environment. The site is moderated by trained staff.

Enable www.enablesupportservices-dorset.co.uk Our goal is to support our clients in improving their skills and confidence in living independent and happy lives. We work in partnership with our clients and strive to consistently provide a sensitive, flexible and professional response. Within our team, we have high levels of knowledge and experience in working with people with various social care needs - including mental health difficulties, learning disability and

Asperger's Syndrome. We are always willing to hear about the needs of people affected by other difficulties and would seek to provide an effective and responsive service to anyone in need. Home based Debbie Rule [07546110400](tel:07546110400)

The Samaritans Always there 24 hours a day, to offer confidential emotional support. National [0345 909090](tel:0345909090) Bournemouth [01202 551999](tel:01202551999) Salisbury [01722 323355](tel:01722323355) Weymouth [01305 771777](tel:01305771777)

EDUCATION

Autism Education Trust www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk

The Autism Education Trust (AET) was launched in November 2007 with funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It is dedicated to coordinating and improving education support for all children on the autism spectrum in England.

It is estimated that one in 100 children is on the autism spectrum. Their education is the primary concern for most parents and carers. The Autism Education Trust aims to create a platform for voluntary, independent and statutory providers to plan and develop appropriate autism education provision across all education settings, including early years.

Wessex Mediation www.wessexmediation.co.uk Provides a Mediation Service specifically for children and young people with Special Educational Needs [0845 0529487](tel:08450529487)

Dorset Parent Support Adviser Service Contactable through your child's school. Barnardo's, 3a Poundbury Business Centre, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 3WA.

Parent Partnership Service.

www.parentpartnership.org.uk/find_your_local_pps/south_west/dorset.aspx Dorset County Council service. South/West Dorset Information and support on Special Educational Needs; [01305 250766](tel:01305250766) / [01300 341978](tel:01300341978)/ [07748624609](tel:07748624609)

Dorset Advocacy www.dorsetadvocacy.co.uk Creates advocacy partnerships with people who have learning difficulties, including those with ASD. The organisation provides long-term (citizen) and issues-based advocacy. Dorset Advocacy also hosts SPAN, a project for parents with learning difficulties, and Lawlink, a scheme in which people with learning difficulties train law providers in disability awareness. [01305 251033](tel:01305251033) / [01202 716363](tel:01202716363)

Primary and Secondary Inclusion Development Plan (IDP) Supporting Pupils on the Autism Spectrum www.nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/165037 Activities and resources to strengthen the confidence and expertise of teachers in meeting high incidence special educational needs (SEN). This e-learning course – part of the Inclusion Development Programme (IDP) – will support teachers in meeting the needs of pupils on the autism spectrum. The course is designed for teachers and teaching assistants, trainers and initial teacher training (ITT) providers, headteachers and leadership teams, support workers, and student teachers in training. You may select a route through the learning according to role: as facilitator; for personal CPD; or for use with pupils.

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) www.ace-ed.org.uk is a national charity that provides independent advice for parents and carers of children aged 5-16 in state-funded education. ACE aims to provide the information, support and high-quality advice that parents need to help their children at school, particularly where there are problems. General advice line: [0808 800 5793](tel:08088005793) Exclusion advice line: [0808 800 0327](tel:08088000327) Exclusion information line: [020 7704 9822](tel:02077049822) (24hr answer phone)

Parent Support's helpline hears first-hand from parents the stress of their caring role. It will be a great benefit to refer those needing help to a trained counsellor. Freephone Counselling Helpline Number: [0800 043 9385](tel:08000439385)

TreeHouse www.treehouse.org.uk TreeHouse is the national charity for autism education. TreeHouse was founded in 1997 by parents of children with autism and today we campaign for better autism education nationally and run a school for children and young people with autism. TreeHouse undertakes policy and parliamentary work and research to ensure autism is a national priority, supports parents to campaign locally and offers training and consultancy on autism education. TreeHouse The Pears National Centre for Autism Education Woodside Avenue London N10 3JA Email the school reception on reception@treehouse.org.uk or call on [020 8815 5424](tel:02088155424) Email general enquiries to info@treehouse.org.uk or call on [020 8815 5444](tel:02088155444) Fax: [020 8815 5420](tel:02088155420)

First Tier Tribunal for Special Educational Needs & Disability www.sendist.gov.uk The First Tier Tribunal for Special Educational Needs & Disability was set up by the Education Act 1993. It considers parents' appeals against the decisions of Local Authorities (LA's) about children's special educational needs if parents cannot reach agreement with the LA. The Tribunal is independent. The Lord Chancellor appoints the Tribunal Judges, and the Secretary of State for Education and Skills appoints the members. But the Government cannot influence the tribunal's decision, and the tribunal has no connection with any LA.

www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=350838 / www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=389724 Information about Special Educational Needs and Inclusion, the way in which children with Special Educational Needs are supported, links to Inclusion Services, Transport Services and information about exclusion from school.

RECREATION

Artz + and Sportz + www.eastdorsetarts.org/artzplus/ School holiday arts and sports events for children with additional needs and their families. Info Line: [\(01305\) 252250](tel:01305252250) Funded and supported by: West Dorset DC, East Dorset DC, The National Lottery, Dorset County Council, Dorset Short Breaks Transformation, Dorset NHS Primary Care Trust, Active Dorset, East Dorset Mencap.

Coping with CHAOS - (Children's Helpers And Other Support) www.copingwithchaos.org/ are a small registered charity supporting families caring for a child/children or young person with a disability or special educational need. They provide services for families living in East & West Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole. The Families Centre, Bond Avenue, West Moors, Ferndown, BH22 0LL [01202 855105](tel:01202855105) email; info@copingwithchaos.org

Enigma Youth Club -www.enigmayouth.com/ for young people on the autistic spectrum and their friends. Sundays from 4pm Dorchester Youth Club, Lubbecke Way, Dorchester. Contact Sarah on [01305 757378](tel:01305757378) / sarah@enigmayouth.com (Sarah also offers Outreach for advice re Carers Allowance & benefits on a voluntary basis).

Hip Bones – www.dorsetyouth.org.uk/gillingham/clubs.htm Club for young people with physical or learning needs. Alternate Saturdays at Gillingham Youth & Community Centre, The Cottage, Cemetery Road, Gillingham, SP8 4AZ 01747 822267 / 822464

Riding for the Disabled Association www.rda.org.uk Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) is a community of voluntary groups providing a high-quality service – where each aspect works to the benefit of themselves and all the other parts. RDA values the input of people at all levels is positive about their achievements – whether as a rider/driver or as a helper. RDA emphasises the importance of training and achievement – both for riders/drivers and for volunteers. RDA values the input of riders and drivers in deciding its future. RDA is accessible to all – whether as a rider/driver or as a volunteer. RDA is professionally run, communicates openly at all levels and is financially transparent. See website for local groups Tel: 0845 658 1082

Cinema Exhibitor's Association Card www.ceacard.co.uk This is a national card that can be used to verify that the holder is entitled to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. Terms and Condition of use apply. To apply for the card, you will need to meet one or more of the following criteria: a) Be in receipt of the disability living allowance or attendance allowance. b) Be a registered blind person. The card is valid for 1 year from the date of issue. Application forms are available from cinemas across the UK supporting this card. Alternatively, **download an application form to print out and fill in.** Tel: 0845 123 1292

Autism Friendly Screenings with Picture House Cinemas www.picturehouses.co.uk & **NAS:** www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=2122&a=18616 These screenings, arranged in partnership with The National Autistic Society (NAS), are designed for people on the autism spectrum, their families, friends and carers. During the film, low lights are left on inside the auditorium and the volume of the soundtrack is reduced. Cinemagoers are free to move around, make a noise or take a break during the film if they need to - these are activities not usually encouraged at regular screenings. The cinema is often not a place that is easily accessible for families affected by autism. These screenings aim to make families feel welcome, comfortable and relaxed in an environment that can otherwise seem traumatic, enjoying a film with other families who experience similar issues.

Autescape www.autescape.org Autescape is a conference with a difference. Rather than talking to a primarily non-autistic audience about autism, this conference is specifically by and for autistic people. Some of it isn't even about autism at all! Non-autistic people are also welcome, but the environment and content of the event are centred around autistic people's needs, interests and sensitivities. Autescape lasts three days in which there are workshops, leisure activities, social opportunities, and more, all specifically oriented to the needs and preferences of autistic people. Autescape 2010 is 10-13 August 2010

Innovate Dorset www.innovatedorset.co.uk/index_home.htm Innovate (dorset)'s desire is to provide good quality and affordable youth work, projects or activities for young people, adults and families. Encouraging individuals and groups to move forward. Developing confidence in their abilities. Helping clients to have a better understanding of the issues that may surround them and taking steps to encourage empowerment, so they may work towards removing barriers with the vision to attain achievable and desired goals. k.tatchell@innovatedorset.co.uk phone: 07709137246

Curious Arts www.curiousarts.co.uk Use Drama as a tool for exploring issues and topics can be both fun and inclusive. When communication is not easy, drama can step in and create a safe environment for expressing yourself, especially if you have an emotional or physical problem. Curious Arts run Drama workshops specifically for those who do not normally have access to creative ways of expressing themselves, but who would benefit from the space and empowerment which this offers. [0845 3721313](tel:08453721313)

AUTISM SPECIFIC CHARITIES

The Wessex Autistic Society (TWAS) www.twas.org.uk The Wessex Autistic Society is a leading voluntary organisation delivering education, support and care services for people on the autistic spectrum. We operate services in Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset, and outreach to anyone else who may need us, regardless of where they may be. Contact Nicky Woolley at the Dorchester office on [01305 213130](tel:01305213130) for information on Outreach and support services.

Children with Autism Respite and Development Service (CARDS) – through TWAS. This service seeks to provide practical support to families with a child on the autism spectrum and/or a learning/developmental disability to maintain the child within the family and enhance the whole family's quality of life. With focus on the individual child and his/her family, the service can provide: Respite care in the family home or out within the local community, Strategies and support in behaviour management for the family and/or other agencies, Holiday play schemes. Referrals to the service require the support of a social services, education or health representative, unless a family wishes to pay privately for the service.

National Autistic Society (NAS) www.nas.org.uk We champion the rights and interests of all people with autism and aim to provide individuals with autism and their families with help, support and services that they can access, trust and rely upon and which can make a positive difference to their lives.

Autism Helpline [0845 0704004](tel:08450704004)

Parent to Parent Line [0800 9520520](tel:08009520520)

Advocacy in Education [08450704002](tel:08450704002)

Service for professionals [020 79033599](tel:02079033599)

Signpost – for personalised advice and information about your child's ASD and useful resources <http://signpost.autism.org.uk/>

Parenting Support Programmes www.nas.org.uk/earlybird **NAS Early Birds (0-4) Early Birds Plus (4-8) Cygnet (8+)**. Training programmes involving sessions and home visits and is run by local professionals, locally co-ordinated by Westfield Technology College

The programmes are autism-specific and have three 'threads': 1) Understand your child's autism. 2) Get yourself into your child's world: make contact; find ways to develop interaction and communication. 3) Learn how to analyse and understand your child's behaviours; and How to use structure, so you can pre-empt and cope with problem behaviours.

Early Bird, Early Bird Plus and Cygnets are currently co-ordinated by;

Trish Brooks & Alison Crawford, Westfield Technology College; Weymouth [01305833518](tel:01305833518)

and are also run through;

Ros McGill, Beaucroft School; Wimborne [01202 886083](tel:01202886083)

Clive Padgett, Yewstock School; Sturminster Newton [01258 472796](tel:01258472796)

Helen Farnell, Mountjoy School; Bridport [01308 458664](tel:01308458664)

OAASIS (Office for Advice, Assistance, Support and Information on Special needs) www.oaasis.co.uk offers advice and information for parents with a child with special educational needs. We have a helpline, email enquiry service and many information sheets, available on our website. We are also the information service of Cambian Education Services and can provide prospectuses and other information about their seven residential schools and colleges for children/young people with autism or Asperger Syndrome. Helpline: 0800 902 0732 (Mon to Fri, 10am to 4.30pm) Email: oaasis@cambiangroup.com

CARE, BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT & LEGISLATION.

Carers Assessments - The NHS & Community Care Act 1990 states that carers have a right to ask Social Services to carry out an assessment of their needs as a carer. This gives people a chance to talk about ways that will help them maintain a healthy work/life/caring balance. A carers' assessment will work out what help the person you care for needs and what level of help you are providing. It will then look at the level of services the council may provide. To request a carers assessment contact your local Social Care office.

www.nas.org.uk/content/1/c6/02/04/27/Carer%27s_assessment_model_letter.pdf

www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=2417

www.disabilitywessex.org.uk/view/view.php?item=56

Social Care Local Offices

Bridport 01308 422234

Christchurch 01202 474106

Ferndown 01202 877445

North Dorset 01258 472652

Weymouth/ Portland 01305 760139

Dorchester 01305 221450

Purbeck 01929 553456

Bournemouth 01202 458102

Poole 01202 735046

Children Who Are Disabled; Dorchester 01305 251414 / Ferndown

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team; Weymouth 01305 462810.

The Children's Centre Damers Road Dorchester DT1 2LB. 01305 255705.

Information about Direct Payments

Direct payments were introduced to provide more flexibility for those who have been assessed as being in need of services. A person receiving direct payments can arrange their own services instead of receiving the services directly from the Local Authority. The idea is that direct payments provide a person with more freedom and control over the community care services that they receive and for some, this can lead to greater independence.

Dorset Direct Payments Advisory Service 01935 842042

www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=2415&a=17372

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4007096

www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Socialcarereform/Personalisation/Directpayments/index.htm

www.bournemouthdirectpaymentssupportservice.org.uk/home/home.php - This service is dedicated to supporting Bournemouth Citizens who are interested in, or already on, Direct Payments.

Or see Wessex Disability www.disabilitywessex.org.uk call 01202 312085

A step-by-step guide to help with claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children under 16 with brain related conditions www.cerebra.org.uk/parent_support/DLA_guide.htm / www.cerebra.org.uk/parent_support/information_and_advice/cp_information/finance_and_welfare/benefits.htm

Care and Benefits advice

ie; Carers Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Mobility Allowance etc.

Disability Benefit Enquiry Line [0800882200](tel:0800882200)

www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1868&a=11338

www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=2416&a=20425

www.disabilitywessex.org.uk/view/view.php?item=56

www.adviceguide.org.uk/index/life/benefits.htm

www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/index.htm

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/DisabilityLivingAllowance/index.htm

www.direct.gov.uk/en/CaringForSomeone/MoneyMatters/CarersAllowance/index.htm

Outreach for advice re Carers Allowance etc contact Sarah on 01305 757378 /

sarah@enigmayouth.com

Or contact your local citizens advice bureau www.citizensadvice.org.uk/

Every Disabled Child Matters www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp

EDCM is a campaign by four leading organisations working with disabled children and their families – [Contact a Family](#), [Council for Disabled Children](#) (CDC), [Mencap](#) and the [Special Educational Consortium](#) (SEC). We will challenge politicians and policy-makers to make good on the Government's commitment that every child matters.

Early Support www.earlysupport.org.uk Early Support was developed by parents, carers and practitioners. It's a national programme that is being introduced and used in LAs, hospitals and community-based health services across England to ensure families are kept at the heart of discussion and decision-making about their child. Early Support is for families with disabled children under five and anyone who regularly works with them. There is a wide range of people using Early Support. The Early Support programme is managed by the DCSF, and was developed in response to the Government guidance [Together from the start](#). Early Support is now part of the wider [Aiming High for Disabled Children](#) programme which is transforming services for disabled children across England.

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a standardised assessment designed to get a complete picture of a child's additional needs at an early stage. You can speak to your child's school or health professional about completing a CAF.

www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=346442 or

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/deliveringservices1/caf/cafframework/

The CAF is a common process which enables practitioners to make an assessment and act on the result, using a standard form to record the assessment and where appropriate, share with others. It covers all aspects that affect a child's development - health, education and social development through to housing and family relationships. CAF is the only assessment that can be used by practitioners in all agencies in England that deliver services to children and young people.

MISCELLANEOUS

DotComUnity

www.dotcommunity.co.uk/dcu3_disability_services_directory.php?area=11&local=Dorset

DotComUnity c.i.c, a not for profit Social Enterprise providing a one stop online resource and directory for finding out about community services, care information and social interactivity for adults and children with a learning or physical disability within YOUR local community.

hi2U www.hi2u.org.uk 4 people with hidden impairments; Attempting to open doors for people with hidden voices. A site centred around ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, Dyslexia and similar neurological differences along with any other type of hidden impairment.

Connexions www.connexions-bdp.co.uk Connexions is an information, advice and guidance service for 13-19 year olds (and up to 25 for young people who are disabled). Our trained advisers are here to make sure you get the help you need to make the most of your life.

Family Fund www.familyfund.org.uk The Family Fund helps families with severely disabled children to have choices and the opportunity to enjoy ordinary life. We give grants for things that make life easier and more enjoyable for the disabled child and their family, such as washing machines, driving lessons, hospital visiting costs, computers and holidays. [0845 130 4542](tel:08451304542) or [01904 621115](tel:01904621115)

The Family Fund has launched a new free-to-join website, Family Fund *extra* www.familyfundextra.org.uk which gives families of disabled children and young people online discounts from leading high street names such as Comet, Argos, Haven Holidays and Stone Computers.

Social Stories A Social Story is a short description of a particular situation, event or activity, which includes specific information about what to expect in that situation and why. They can provide an individual with some idea of how others might respond in a particular situation and therefore provide a framework for appropriate behaviour. Social Stories also enable others to see things from the perspective of the individual with ASD and why the person may appear to respond or behave in a particular way.

www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1574

www.do2learn.com Downloadable pictures to help with visual timetables and much more.

www.setbc.org/pictureset/ Downloadable visual communication tools.

Symbol stories www.symbolworld.org/

Widgit Software www.widgit.com/resources/index.htm

OAASIS (Office for Advice, Assistance, Support and Information on Special needs) www.oaasis.co.uk offers advice and information for parents with a child with special educational needs. We have a helpline, email enquiry service and many information sheets, available on our website. We are also the information service of Cambian Education Services and can provide prospectuses and other information about their seven residential schools and colleges for children/young people with autism or Asperger Syndrome. Helpline: [0800 902 0732](tel:08009020732) (Mon to Fri, 10am to 4.30pm) Email: oaasis@cambiangroup.com

Autism Help www.autism-help.org This site provides help with over 350 fact sheets of autism-related information, with an emphasis on practical strategies, as many families cannot afford the more expensive interventions, or may be geographically isolated and cannot access autism support services.

Jessica Kingsley Publishers <http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/aspergerautism> Our list of titles on autism and Asperger's Syndrome is now amongst the foremost in the world, and our books are published for people with autism and Asperger Syndrome themselves, as well as for their families, carers, and the people that work with them. We place a strong emphasis on the voice of the individual.

ASD Dorset; Useful Info

Useful links and resources for parents www.thecbf.org.uk/chall-behaviour/more/booklist-parents.htm

Please contact s.dempsey@dorsetcc.gov.uk if you have any additional information which may be of use, or wish to enquire further about information listed here.

This list has been compiled from various sources, the content of which has not been reviewed nor approved by Dorset County Council. The opinions and views expressed by individuals listed do not necessarily reflect those of Dorset County Council. Other services may be available which are not included here.