

BROTHERS

autism newsletter



Edition 2: Winter 2023

AUTISM STRATEGY 2023-2028

To Respect, To Listen, To Involve



Good News

Autism Strategy 2023-2028 published

Very Exciting News! Highlights include, the appointment of an independent 'Autism Reviewer' advocating for individuals with autism and their families; and also the formation of the Autism Forum includes members: Cedar Foundation; National Autistic Society; the NOW Group; Autism Initiatives; & Mencap; others!

Bad News

**well not necessarily bad news actually!*

Autism: Highest rate on record of NI children with diagnosis [according to the Department of Health]

One in 20 schoolchildren in Northern Ireland has a diagnosis of autism, according to figures published by the Department of Health. It is the highest prevalence rate on record, and more than four times as many as 15 years ago. The department cautioned against comparing years due to changes in the way data has been collected since 2019 ...

It was reported that 15,212 children aged 4-16 identified with autism in 2022/23; compared to 14,019 in 2021/22; and about 3,300 in 2008/09 ...



Top 2 tips to consider for supporting individuals with autism at CHRISTMAS

do not pressure to socially interact for prolonged periods with extended family & friends

try to maintain some daily routine; i.e., bedtime, personal care, & meal times

Does SANTA have AUTISM?

***find out on last page!**



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Two Guinness World Record Breakers from the autism community ... BRILLIANT!



Teen with autism makes Guinness World Record breaking Jenga block tower

15-year-old Auldin Maxwell, who stacked an astonishing 1,840 Jenga pieces all on one single block, says using them helps tap into his creativity.

Maxwell, who is on the autism spectrum, told **Guinness World Records** that his passion came naturally, saying that he had “one or two Jenga sets, and I just started building different designs and came up with stacking ideas.”

Guinness World Records title for largest mental arithmetic multiplication

Sanaa was timed as she multiplied 12 randomly selected digits and the only tool Sanaa was allowed was her mind.

“Sanaa has worked every day of her life to pull herself up to where she is now. Whether it is her speech, gross and fine motor skills, and every little thing we take for granted in our daily lives, she has worked hard for all of those. She is now able to do things which were considered impossible during her early childhood.”



[Guinness Book of Records, 2023]

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Parental grief in having a child with autism is often reported in research and a huge factor for many mums and dads; however, there is also absolute wonder in getting to know your child with autism - and how they can continue to surprise us with their unique capabilities and personalities!



“Imagine your child has autism; mine does.” In 2021, that doesn’t seem like breaking news, but 31 years ago, it was a big deal - thank goodness research, understanding, and societal attitudes have improved - *still a long way to go* - read next story!



“It’s so upsetting to think I won’t see him every day, but this is the best thing for Harvey” - Katie Price’s son is partially blind, has autism, & other health conditions - preyed upon & suffered extreme online bullying - cowards just as quick to bully Rocky’s child?! - probably not!

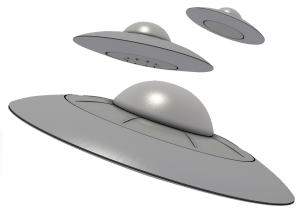


“My oldest son has autism & special needs ... and because of the beauty of his spectrum — call it a disorder if you will, I disagree with you — he knows nothing of irony; he doesn’t know what cynicism is; you can’t insult him; he can’t insult you - he’s the happiest person in my life and many others”



Ufology NEWS ...

science *fiction* or science *fact*?!



UFO hearings: whistle-blower David Grusch [autism] says ‘non-human biologics’ found at alleged crash sites

The US government conducted a “multi-decade” program which collected, and attempted to reverse engineer, crashed UFOs ...

“non-human” biologics had been recovered by the government!

[The Guardian, 2023]

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Very excited to announce that our Social Enterprise will launch early 2024

Interested in understanding your autism and having the opportunity to express autism through the arts? If so, make contact today

Understanding Autism through the Arts

Base

BROTHERS autism social enterprise

Housing Executive

BROTHERS
autism spectrum, neurodiversity, & mental health training programmes

THE CPD GROUP

BASE would like to take this public opportunity to thank the Housing Executive NI for awarding a 5K start-up grant for the project!

Are you or do you know a young adult [18-25] with autism who would like to better understand their autism through CPD accredited training - provided by CPD Register's Award Finalist UK; whilst the several different art activities will be facilitated each week by a different individual artist with autism *and/or* an other type of neurodiverse condition!

Registered with Social Enterprise Northern Ireland

David McLaughlin Director of Brothers training programmes is Queen's University Belfast - School of Psychology - Alumni of the Week

"I learnt so much throughout my degree, especially in relation to behaviour psychology, cognitive development, childhood adversity, and atypical cognitive development; all of which have since become a personal passion of mine that I read on a lot, and they are all highly related concepts that have positively influenced my chosen career path."

Full interview: [QUB Psych Alumni Profile](#)

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology Alumni of the Week

David McLaughlin
Founder
Brothers Autism

go.qub.ac.uk/PsychAlumni

PSYCHOLOGY AT WORK

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Does your business, organisation, or Group require CPD accredited training?!



BROTHERS training programmes deliver empirical, theoretical, and practically based CPD accredited training, that will increase attendees knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the autism spectrum, neurodiversity, and mental health conditions.

*gain increased confidence; equipped with helpful strategies; whilst additionally having a fun and enjoyable experience participating on our CPD accredited interactive training!

BROTHERS
Mental Health
understanding and awareness training programme

ACCREDITED ACTIVITY
03 Credit Hours
#1014928
Verify @ <https://thecpdregister.com>

BROTHERS
Autism Spectrum
understanding and awareness training programme

ACCREDITED ACTIVITY
03 Credit Hours
#1012355
Verify @ <https://thecpdregister.com>

BROTHERS
Neurodiversity
understanding and awareness training programme

ACCREDITED ACTIVITY
03 Credit Hours
Verify @ <https://thecpdregister.com>

BOOK YOUR TRAINING TODAY FOR 2024

BROTHERS training programme is listed with the Social Value register ...



Think, Buy, Manage, and Monitor/Report your business' 'scoring of social value' in your procurement application!



Brothers training programmes are delighted to announce upcoming training with the **Professional Footballers Association NI [PFANI]** and also the **British Association of Social Workers [BASW] NI** in early **2024**

*delivering a combined 2x autism spectrum, 2x mental health, 1x neurodiversity 3 hour CPD accredited training courses and 3x lunch-time 1 hour seminars!



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Does SANTA have autism?!

I have the same work routine year in year out; and I can be very efficient and productive in short space of time



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I prefer to work independently and at night when it is nice, quiet, and peaceful

I can get anxious and stressed and sometimes I forget things, so I always need to check my list twice



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I will think you're either 'naughty' or 'nice'; sometimes there's no real in-between with me

I have a very restricted diet and my nutritional choices aren't always great



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