



Training and development

Ambitious about Autism works with professionals, parents and carers, schools, colleges, local authorities, services and partners to share knowledge and skills to improve educational practice and outcomes. Taking our expertise out to the country through our training and support programme helps us to have the widest possible impact on the lives of children and young people with autism.

91% of our training course attendees have implemented their learning in their workplace.



Youth Participation

We work with young people with autism and their families to ensure that their views and experiences are heard and taken into account in policy and practice nationally and in our own work. We also run the myVoice programme with and for 16-25 year olds with autism, funded by the Department for Health. As part of this programme, young people create information for a bespoke section of our website and facilitate online chats with their peers. They are also trained to review local services and to take on roles on local and national committees so they are empowered to influence the world and decisions affecting them.

Sadie's story

Since joining the myVoice project Sadie has received training, completed practice reviews and has conducted her first inspection of a dental practice. Sadie has enjoyed it greatly; it has made her feel more confident and positive about autism.

Sadie says, "It is good to feel like part of a community of people with autism and it is nice to feel like you have the power to improve things for people with autism."

Get Involved

We are ambitious about making the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism but we can't do this without our generous supporters and partners. There are many ways people can support us and become a part of #TeamAmbitious:

- **Take on a challenge for us** – run a marathon, skydive, or cycle 100 miles.
- **Donate** - whether a monthly gift, a one-off donation, or a legacy; your support goes a long way to help achieve our mission.
- **Volunteer** - we are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to lend a hand at our events. To get involved, visit: ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/events



We exist to make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism.



We are Ambitious about Autism



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Website: ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk
Registered Charity 1063184 Registered Company 3375255

We are

the national charity for children and young people with autism. We exist to make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism.

Our vision is a world where the ordinary IS the everyday experience of children and young people with autism.

We provide services, raise awareness and understanding and campaign for change.

“I’m ambitious about autism because we still have a long way to go before all children with autism get the support they need.”

Nick Hornby, Author



What is autism?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects one in 100 people in the UK. It affects the way a person communicates and how they experience the world around them.

Autism is described as a spectrum condition. This means that while people with autism, including Asperger syndrome, share certain characteristics, they will be highly individualised in their needs and preferences.

Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives, but others

may face additional challenges, including learning disabilities, which affect them so profoundly that they need support in many areas.

If you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism.

Early intervention, education and support are critical in enabling children and young people with autism to lead fulfilling lives, to learn, thrive and achieve.

Daniel's story

“My name is Daniel. I was diagnosed with autistic spectrum condition (ASC) when I was three years old. I prefer to call it ASC and not ASD (autism spectrum disorder) as I don’t consider my autism to be a disorder; it’s simply who I am, or at least part of who I am. If you removed my autism it would be like removing my blue eyes or my love of chocolate. I am currently training to be a chef in college and working part of the time in a café with people with learning disabilities two days a week when I am not at college. Some things can be hard but basically I’m just an ordinary person trying to live my life and hoping other people will like me. I guess you feel the same? So we aren’t so different after all.”

How do we help children and young people with autism?

More and better education services

TreeHouse School is the first special school set up by Ambitious about Autism in 1997. Based in the heart of a thriving community in north London, it educates pupils with autism aged 3-19 from across London and the Home Counties.

Ambitious College is London’s first specialist day college set up by Ambitious about Autism in September 2014. It is dedicated to providing further education and training to young people with complex autism aged 16-25 from across London and the Home Counties.



Meet Jack*

Jack is a 20 year old young man with autism and learning difficulties. He is non-verbal and loves being active and being part of a team. Jack attends our Ambitious College where his Job Coach secured him work experience at the RAF Museum. With our guidance, staff at the RAF Museum adapted to Jack’s needs and Jack was able to adjust to his new environment at his own pace. Within a few weeks he went from completing a single task in five minute sessions, away from the busy main office, to working independently for an hour and a half alongside his colleagues. His mum is hopeful that he will be able to find a job in the future.

*Name has been changed to protect the individual.

Increasing awareness and understanding

Autism is seen as a hidden disability and is often misunderstood. We work to increase awareness and understanding of autism and to support children and young people with autism effectively so they can learn, thrive and achieve. If we’re going to create real and lasting change, we cannot do it alone. That’s why we reach out to people to join us.

Improving policy, practice and participation

We work to improve policy and practice in autism education and to ensure that the views and experiences of young people and their families are heard and taken into account. This enables us to influence and improve the education system nationally and improve outcomes for children and young people with autism.

