Title: Mid-life social outcomes for a population-based sample of adults with ASD
Authors: Farley M. et al
Abstract: Adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) fall short of social outcomes of non-ASD peers in mid-life, as documented by currently published research. The aim of the current study was to extend what is known about social functioning, employment, independent living, and use of social services by examining details of the current life status for a population-based sample of adults with ASD (mean age = 35.5 years, range = 22.2–51.4). We collected outcome data via direct assessment and informant report for 169 individuals. Three-fourths of the sample had cognitive abilities in the intellectually disabled range. Social functioning outcomes, as a single measure, mirror those reported previously for other samples, including samples with a high proportion of individuals with normal range intellectual abilities, with 20% achieving the most independent outcomes and 46% requiring high levels of support across most life areas. Participant subgroups who achieved maximal outcomes represented a range of social and intellectual abilities for several outcome metrics. Participants used high levels of public and private supports, yet specific areas of clear, unmet need were also identified.
Publication date: 2018
Address: Megan Farley, Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 1500 Highland Ave, Madison, WI, 53705, USA; email: farley3@waisman.wisc.edu
Keywords: Social functioning; Outcome; Population-based study; Adults; Autism spectrum disorders; Longitudinal studies; Relationships; Employment; Housing; Legal aspects; Transport; Leisure
Availability: Available from the NAS Information Centre
CID: 47081
Classification: Journal Collection

Title: An evaluation of a social skills intervention for adults with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disabilities preparing for employment in Ireland: a pilot study
Authors: Walsh E.; Holloway J.; Lydon H.
Source: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 2017, Dec 09 [Epub ahead of print]
Abstract: Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are faced with significant barriers relating to employment opportunities and workplace participation. This study evaluated the effectiveness of the Walker social skills curriculum: the ACCESS program and video modelling to increase social communication skills necessary for workplace inclusion. Participants attended two sessions (i.e., 3 h) per week across a period of 20 weeks. A multiple-probe design was used to demonstrate social skills outcomes across three broad curricular areas (i.e., peer-related, adult-related, and self-related social skills). Pre- and post-intervention standardised assessments were also taken. Results showed significant increases in target social skills and a significant decrease in problem behaviours following intervention. Evidence of maintenance and generalisation were also demonstrated. Implications for practice and research are discussed.
Publication date: 2017
Address: Jennifer Holloway, School of Psychology, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland; email: jennifer.holloway@nuigalway.ie
Download from: If you are an NAS employee you can read this journal online from your NAS computer
Keywords: Evaluation; Social skills; Intervention; Adults; Autism spectrum disorders; Intellectual disability; Employment; Ireland; Social communication; Skills
CID: 47064

Title: Using Virtual Interactive Training Agents (ViTA) with adults with autism and other developmental disabilities
Authors: Burke S. L. et al
Abstract: Conversational virtual human (VH) agents are increasingly used to support role-play experiential learning. This project examined whether a Virtual Interactive Training Agent (ViTA) system would improve job interviewing skills in individuals with autism and developmental disabilities (N = 32). A linear mixed model was employed to evaluate adjusted least square mean differences of means scores on the Marino Interview Assessment Scale (MIAS) across different time points. The mean score of MIAS over all questions increased between the first ViTA session and the final face-to-face interview. Participants developed the ability to identify strengths, self-promote, self-advocate, answer situational questions, and respond to behavioural/social questions as measured by multiple evaluations using the MIAS.
Publication date: 2017
Address: Shanna L. Burke, Florida International University, Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Affiliate Faculty with FIU Embrace, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, AHC5 585, Miami, FL 33199, USA; email:
Title: Walking the corridors of power
Authors: Lammas R
Abstract: An article written by Robbie Lammas describing his job, working as a Parliamentary assistant at Westminster. Robbie was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome at 10 years old and achieving his dream job hasn't been an easy journey. He has an aim to become the first openly-autistic MP and a life's mission to make the only barrier between potential and reality self-determination.
Publication date: 2017
Keywords: Parliament; Asperger syndrome; Work experience
Availability: Available from the NAS Information Centre
CID: 46910
Classification ]

Title: "I have to plan ahead really carefully"
Authors: Westbury S
Abstract: An interview with Anne Hegerty from ITV's popular quiz game "The Chase". Anne discusses her diagnosis, coping with television work, her experience of being in the workplace and her proudest moment.
Publication date: 2017
Keywords: Asperger syndrome; Employment; Personal viewpoint
Availability: Available from the NAS Information Centre
CID: 46909
Classification ]

Title: What can be achieved when people are seen as active citizens
Source: Community Living, 2017, Vol. 31(1), pp. 18
Abstract: Do Your Thing is a Community Catalysts co-production project funded by Kirklees Council and Greater Huddersfield and North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The project is helping people with learning disabilities or those on the autistic spectrum to use what they are good at by setting up and running social activity groups.
Publication date: 2017
Keywords: Employment; Learning disability; Autism spectrum; Social activities; Social groups
Availability: Available from the NAS Information Centre
CID: 46889
Classification Journal Collection

Title: The SEARCH is on - no ifs, no buts, real jobs for real pay
Authors: Jarrett S.
Abstract: Project SEARCH is an organisation that aims to secure competitive employment for people with learning disabilities. In the NHS in London, Project Search programmes are operational in six large hospitals supporting people with learning disabilities and those on the autistic spectrum into full-time employment.
Publication date: 2017
Keywords: Autism; Learning disability; Employment
Availability: Available from the NAS Information Centre
CID: 46888
Classification Journal Collection

Title: Employment, community...and cake?
Authors: Lamplough R
Abstract: "I wanted to be a good neighbour who could, perhaps, support any neighbours with learning disabilities or autism into paid employment". Richard Lamplough, founder of 'A Potential Diamond', makes it clear that getting the
job-fit right is not about forms, notes and formal appointments.

**Publication date:** 2017  
**Keywords:** Autism; Social networking; Employment; Supported employment; Skills  
**Availability:** Available from the NAS Information Centre  
**CID:** 46887  
**Classification** Journal Collection

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**Title:** A working life with autism  
**Authors:** Braunsberg D.  
**Source:** Community Living, 2017, Vol. 31(1), pp. 10-11  
**Abstract:** David Brausberg was diagnosed as severely autistic when he was four years old. Now, as a talented artist and designer he describes the part that work has played in his life, struggles and successes. David is keen to help autistic children develop artistic gifts and for their parents to give them hope for the future. Autism is not a disability but is just being different.  
**Publication date:** 2017  
**Keywords:** Autism; Employment; Art; Design  
**Availability:** Available from the NAS Information Centre  
**CID:** 46886  
**Classification** Journal Collection

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**Title:** I'm not unemployable, I'm autistic  
**Source:** Link, 2016, No.66, pp. 18  
**Abstract:** The National Autistic Society presented a video called "Could you stand the rejection?" as a second stage of its successful campaign Too Much Information (TMI). The video is aimed at closing the employment gap for autistic people as only 16% of autistic adults are in full-time paid employment in the UK.  
**Publication date:** 2016  
**Keywords:** Autism; Information; National Autistic Society; Employment; Campaigning  
**Availability:** Available from the NAS Information Centre  
**CID:** 47167  
**Classification** Journal Collection