



Coventry intervention: Communicate with Confidence group for children and young people with a diagnosis of ASD (aged seven years and over)

At the moment, this is available for those people with a COVENTRY GP ONLY. You cannot self-refer for this intervention. Please discuss the possibility of a referral with a professional and they can make a referral to our services using our usual referral forms.

This session will be facilitated by an experienced Speech and Language Therapist and a Neurodevelopmental Practitioner from the Neurodevelopmental Service.

What your child will learn

The group aims to:

- Explore what communication is;
- Identify what difficulties they may have with communication;
- Develop children's communication skills;
- Increase children's confidence in communicating with others;
- Increase their awareness of safe styles of communication.

How your child will learn

We will offer your child opportunities to practise using their communication skills in a safe and supported environment. We will use a mixture of conversation, discussion and real life situations to trouble-shoot issues as well as games, tasks, scenarios, quizzes and homework activities.

Who will lead the workshop?

One of the clinicians below will run the group:

Penny Thompson, Speech and Language Therapist - Penny qualified in Speech and Language Pathology and Therapeutics in 1988. She has worked in paediatrics for 27 years and has worked in special education, community, hospital and clinic setting. Penny has also worked with pre-school children with special needs and in a primary school with special provision. She completed the Advanced Certificate in Special Education (children/autism) at the University of Birmingham in 2004. She has delivered lectures to nursing students and post-qualification nurses at Coventry University on ASD and language and mental health. Penny joined CAMHS in 2002, and has been part of the autism team since then.

Penny is responsible for autism assessments, ADOS assessments, communication interventions, as well as jointly running the parent ASD/anxiety group.

Ceri Whisker, Speech and Language Therapist - Ceri trained in Speech and Language Therapy in 2008. She has worked with children with a range of communication difficulties and has a special interest in pre-school children with autism. Ceri has worked in Coventry since 2009 and joined the Neurodevelopmental Service in January 2015. Ceri assesses pre-school children in their home or education placement, does ADOS assessments and runs parent information sessions on communication and the pre-school post diagnosis Jigsaw session.

Training for excellence in the NHS

Sometimes we will also have trainees and students observing us in the sessions so they can learn about our work and develop their skills. This is a very important part of their training but if you or the young person would prefer not to have them in a session, please let us know when you arrive for the appointment.

Practical arrangements

Each of the six sessions will last one hour, and will be held at the City of Coventry Health Centre. Parents will need to wait for their child in the waiting area and **will attend the first and last sessions**. In the unlikely event of your child becoming distressed, they will be able to leave room and return to you for reassurance if necessary. We will do our best to help them to settle in as quickly as possible.

When you arrive for your session, please check in at our reception desk and a member of the team will meet you there.

Childcare

Unfortunately we are unable to offer any childcare provision.

How to book

After your referral is accepted, you will be invited to book onto this intervention by calling our admin team on 024 7696 1226.

Neurodevelopmental Service
024 76961226