



**Autism
Education
Trust**

Early Years

Professional Development Programme

For professionals working with children aged 0-4



Supported by



The only professional development programme that...

The AET Programme is the only DfE-supported, CPD-certified professional development programme that is co-produced with autistic people, parents and education professionals. You can access early years specific AET training face-to-face or virtually. The training modules are **delivered by local trainers with experience in the field of autism education and an understanding of the local context.**

Growing need

Over 1 in 100 people are autistic and the number of children receiving an autism diagnosis is rising. The AET early years programme can play a key role in helping your setting to **support autistic children, meet your wider responsibilities** and will form an essential part of your **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**.

More than a training programme

Our 360° holistic approach offers an evidence-based support programme developed by leading autism education specialists, including autistic people, parents, autism specialists, researchers and education professionals, consisting of:

- a modular professional development programme for all staff
- good practice standards against which early years setting leaders can audit their practice and plan improvement
- competency frameworks for practitioners to assess their practice and to plan CPD
- a range of practical resources



Leading the way in Autism Education

Our programme includes a wealth of practical strategies and tools to support you in your everyday work, including the widely recognised **AET Progression Framework**, videos, case studies, problem-solving scenarios, strategies, presentations and activities.



To find out more please visit www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk or contact us at info@autismeducationtrust.org.uk



The benefits of the AET Early Years Programme



Positive ethos

- Respectful
- Person-centred
- Strength focused: autism is a difference, not a deficit



Quality

- Developed by autistic people and education specialists
- Regularly updated to reflect current policy and research
- Rich and interactive materials



Practical

- Practical resources to support your everyday work
- Good practice autism standards and frameworks
- Videos, case studies



Meet wider responsibilities

- Ofsted compliance
- SEND Code of Practice
- Equality Act
- Teachers' Standards



Local knowledge

- Experienced local trainers
- Understanding of the local context
- Peer support and networking



Flexibility

- Modular programme for different audiences
- Training can be delivered in instalments such as twilight sessions



Highly regarded

- Over 90% of delegates rate the training very good or excellent
- Positive impact on practice

The AET Early Years Programme

Making Sense of Autism

This is an awareness-raising module for all staff/practitioners working across Early Years settings.

This module will help you to:

- Enhance your understanding and awareness of autism and how it affects children
- Know the importance of understanding the individual autistic child and their profile of strengths and needs
- Highlight potential barriers to learning for autistic children
- Begin to make reasonable adjustments

Good Autism Practice

In this module, we take delegates through some of the distinct learning needs and strengths that autistic children share, whilst helping delegates to take note of individual differences.

This module will help you to:

- Understand how the key areas of difference can affect the learning of an autistic child
- Consider the strategies you can implement to remove barriers to wellbeing and learning
- Understand the importance of involving the child and family in planning

Progression Framework

This module will introduce the Progression Framework and accompanying documents and show you how to use the framework to identify key learning intentions.

This module will help you to:

- Set suitable and personalised learning intentions for autistic pupils
- Recognise and build on children's strengths and interests and improve overall wellbeing
- Appreciate that children's progress is dependent on support in some areas and how to evidence progress

Anxiety Module

This module helps you to understand how anxiety appears in autistic children and young people, what the key triggers are, and what you can do to support autistic children.

This module will help you to:

- Recognise how children and young people might express anxiety
- Understand what can cause anxiety in autistic children and young people
- Know what you can do to prevent and reduce anxiety in autistic children and young people

Exclusions Module

This module will provide you with information around some of the causes of exclusion in autistic children and young people and how staff and practitioners can address distressed behaviours early on to prevent exclusion occurring.

This module will help you to:

- Understand the legal context of autism and exclusion
- Understand how exclusion can significantly negatively impact on autistic children and young people's educational experiences and outcomes
- Better understand the triggers and ways of managing distressed behaviours

Suite of Resources for Leaders

The modules and materials that make up the suite will support leaders or leadership teams to create culture change across their provision and to fully embed the 8 principles of good autism practice as outlined in the Good Autism Practice Report.

The modules will help leaders to:

- Understand how the 8 Principles of GAP and the 8 Inclusion Promises emerged and why these are so important
- Explore case studies that show how settings have illustrated the 8 principles through adapting practice
- Develop a culture where autistic pupils feel listened to, supported and included.
- Develop the skills, tools and confidence to lead change in their setting

Online resources associated with Early Years Training



Early Years Autism Standards

For leaders or leadership groups within early years settings to enhance and embed inclusive practice and improve outcomes for autistic children.



Early Years Autism Competency Framework

For individual staff within early years settings to self-assess their skills and competencies, identify priority areas to work on and consider their professional development needs.

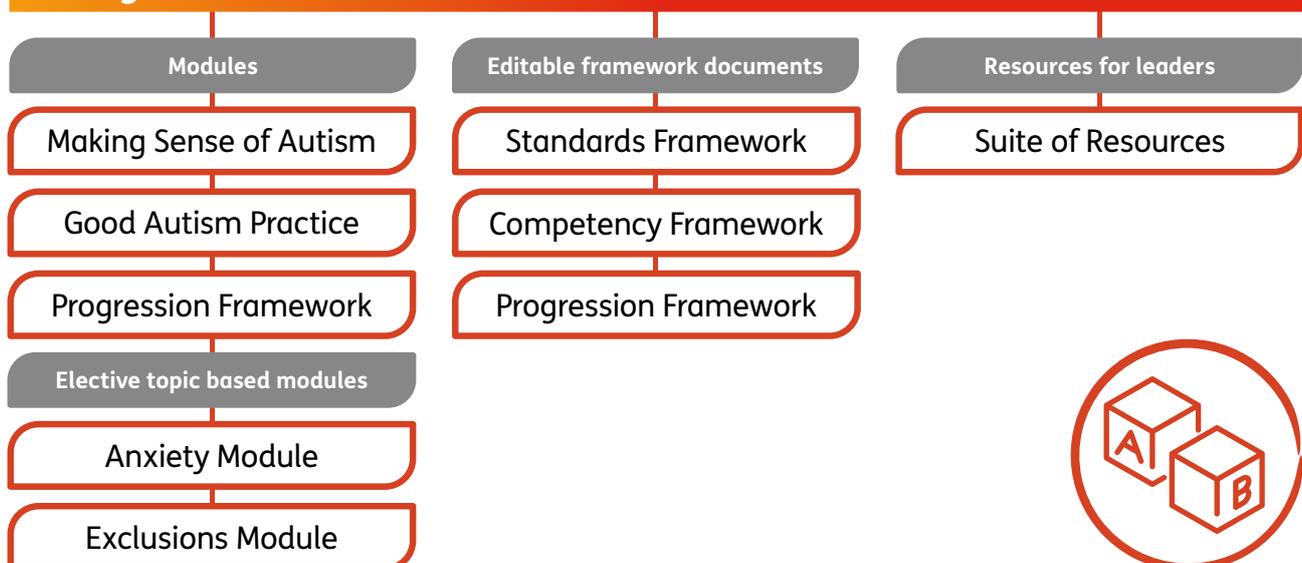


Autism Progression Framework

A comprehensive interactive assessment tool that supports practitioners to identify learning priorities, set key learning intentions, and track progress for autistic children and young people in both mainstream and specialist educational provisions.

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Early Years



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“One of the key themes through the AET programme is that autism is a difference and not a deficit. Certainly, for our children, we don’t want to put a ceiling on their learning. We want to look at their differences and use them as their strengths. I think that’s a really important message.

Good autism practice, for me, is making sure that you treat every child as an individual and to look at their strengths as well as their areas of difficulty. The AET Standards and Competency Framework are really useful with your own professional development. You can go back and look at particular competencies and see what your strengths are.”

Emma Fowles, EYFS Teacher, Hinderton School, Cheshire

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