

WHO ARE WE?

The **Autism Family Advisory Team (AFAT)** is part of Northamptonshire Children and Young People's Service.

We are based at Arnold House in Moulton Leys, Northampton but we work throughout the county.

We provide advice and 'hands on' support to families in their home and out in the community.

The Team is made up of an Assistant Team Manager, 2 Senior Workers and a number of part time Family Advisory Workers (FAWs)

All members of the Team are fully trained in all aspects of Autism, the use of TEACCH, PECs, Social Stories and other complimentary interventions.

HOW DO WE WORK?

Our work is based on the **TEACCH** Approach - *Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication handicapped Children.*

TEACCH works by using the strengths of autism. It works to adapt the physical environment of the child and use visual supports to teach routines, manage behaviour and make the world more meaningful. This helps reduce anxiety and challenging behaviours.

We also work with other supports that complement the use of TEACCH (Social Stories, PECs). These will be explained to you in detail if we think they might be helpful for your child.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Parents to come along to an initial meeting to speak to one of our workers. At this meeting we can discuss the issues and concerns that you may have and offer some initial advice or support.

After this meeting we can support you in a variety of ways:

Advisory Meetings

Phone and arrange to meet with a worker whenever you would like some advice or support.

Allocated Workers

A worker may be allocated to your family to give you ongoing advice and support.

The worker will help develop and prepare any materials you need, give you guidance on how to use them with your child and will meet with you as often as necessary to work on the concerns / behaviour issues you may have.

Direct Workers

A worker may be allocated to your family to work with you and your child in your home or in the community to help resolve a specific issue.

The worker will develop and prepare any visual supports you need and will work 'hands on' with your child to implement these supports and teach you the strategies you need to understand and continue the work.

We will work in partnership with you to provide the level of support that we feel is right for you and your family.

Some families will access more than one level of support to meet their individual needs.

WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?

- To work in partnership with you at all times.
- To help you gain a greater understanding of autism and autistic behaviour.
- To relate this to the behaviours of your child.
- To teach you how to use TEACCH and other supports with your child as a way to help manage and modify behaviour and teach understanding.
- To enable your child to achieve as full and independent a life as possible for them.

WHAT CAN WE HELP WITH?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| - Organising time at home | - Bedtime |
| - Socially inappropriate behaviour | - Dressing |
| - Repetitive behaviours | - Sexuality |
| - Self Help / Life Skills | - Toileting |
| - Personal Hygiene | - Going out |
| - Participation in clubs | - Choosing |
| - Mealtimes | - Anxieties |
| - Shopping | - Obsessions |
| - Homework | - Leisure |

AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF!!

WHO CAN WE WORK WITH?

AFAT may be able to work with your family:

- If your child is under 18 years old
- If they have a diagnosis of:-
autism, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Asperger Syndrome, PDD NOS and some other conditions - please contact us if you are not sure
We can offer some advice even if your child does not have a confirmed diagnosis

- If they go to a mainstream, Designated Special Provision or special school – it doesn't matter

We always work in partnership with parents/carers and cannot work successfully without your full commitment and participation.

You need to be able to continue with the work once our input has finished.

HOW DO YOU CONTACT US?

All you need to do is phone the Team on:

07834 510704

to arrange an initial meeting.

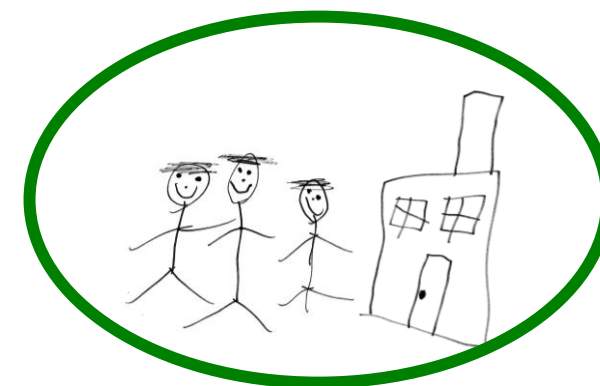
Please leave your name and a contact number and we will ring you back as soon as possible to arrange to meet with you.

Autism Family Advisory Team

**Autism Family Advisory Team
(AFAT),
Arnold House,
Manning Road,
Moulton Leys,
Northampton
NN3 7XE**



Northamptonshire
Children and Young People - Inclusion



Working in partnership with parents to help them understand their child's behaviour and to introduce autism specific supports in the home and community

AiQing High
for Disabled Children