



Useful Links:

Watch our YouTube workshops on:



Ealing Children's Speech & Language Therapy: Understanding Autism & Social Communication Differences

Supporting Autistic Children and Children with Social



Useful Websites and Organisations

Ealing Autism Hub: support for families on the waiting list for Autism assessment. [Ealing Autism hub :: West London NHS Trust](#)

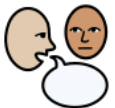
Contact: They offer information and guidance for parents, parenting support groups and more. They also have a local branch that offer face to face support. [Contact: the charity for families with disabled children](#)

Ealing Early Start SEND Inclusion team: 020 8102 5888 or email clcht.ealingadminhub@nhs.net

Centre for ADHD and Autism Support (CAAS): Offer support for families pre and post-diagnosis. [Home - Centre for ADHD and Autism Support](#)

If you would like to speak to a Speech and Language Therapist, get in touch via email and we will call you back. Please let us know if you would like an interpreter.

(open weekdays 1pm-4pm):



wlm-tr.ealing.sltadvice@nhs.net

<https://www.facebook.com/SLTEaling>



Joint Assessment Clinic (JAC): Social Communication Differences and Autism

Information and advice for parents and professionals





What is social communication?



There are many ways of communicating with others; with our faces, movements, play, sounds and words.

We communicate for lots of reasons; to ask for what we need, seek comfort, share something we enjoy or find out more information. **This is social communication.**

Some children with social communication differences may be referred for an assessment and receive an Autism diagnosis.



Autism

Autism is a different way of processing and experiencing the world. Autism is a neurodevelopmental spectrum condition which is there throughout a person's life. It is not something to be "cured" but it is something we can recognise and support.

Autism can affect:

- Social communication and interacting with other people.
- Routines and everyday activities.
- Sensory processing.
- Communicating and coping with emotions.

What is the Joint Assessment Clinic (JAC)?

The JAC is an initial assessment appointment jointly run by a Children's Doctor from the Child Development Team (CDT) and a Speech and Language Therapist.



Children who are referred to us with social communication differences will be seen in the JAC clinic. This can be the first step towards an Autism assessment.

During your child's JAC appointment the Doctor will look at your child's general development. The Speech and Language Therapist will look at your child's speech, language and communication development.



They will both talk to you about your child's development and your child's strengths, as well as the areas you feel they need support with. Then you will talk about the next steps for your child. This may be a referral for an Autism assessment with the Social Communication Assessment Team (SoCA).

After the appointment you will receive a report and a Speech and Language Therapy programme with targets and advice to support your child at home and in their educational setting.

