

Who are we?

The Huddersfield Support Group for Autism (HSGA) was set up in 1992 by Kate Falkingham, a Speech and Language Therapist. Mick Orwin, a parent of a child with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, was one of the Founder Members. Both Kate and Mick are still very active within the group, as President and Chairman. ASD is sometimes referred to as Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). ASD is an umbrella term that includes many different presentations such as Classic Autism, High Functioning Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome (PDA).

The group was set up to provide support and advice for parents of children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions - with or without a diagnosis. Parents of children with ASC often struggle with anxiety and fear. The feeling of not having the information we need to make decisions makes it even harder. HSGA offers parents the opportunity to share information and knowledge and feel part of a community of like-minded people. Whilst every child is unique, you will find that many of us have been through exactly what you are going through!

We have many ways of providing support:

Day trips

Every year we offer our members and their families discounted trips to places like Bridlington, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Chester Zoo and more. Families always relax and enjoy our trips, knowing no child's behaviour will be frowned upon, or barely even raise an eyebrow!

Newsletter

Occasional newsletters are published which offer information, news and advice.

Website

Our webpages offer sign posting, an information pack, contact details and much more.

www.hsga.org.uk

Summer playscheme

We are very proud of our playscheme which, over the years, has gone from strength to strength. Children are able to spend a week taking part in activities and having fun – giving parents much needed respite and siblings the chance to enjoy undivided attention. We are looking to extend our playscheme over the coming year or so to include more children, over more weeks.

Social events

Over the year we have a number of social events including a summer barbeque and an annual concert fundraiser. We also have plans to hold a number of information discussion groups to offer advice on key issues that parents find important, such as diet, transition, communication and education. Details will be given via our newsletter and Facebook page.

Facebook

You can follow us on Facebook to get the most up to date information. Also...our committee members sit on council steering groups for autism so are kept up to date with developments locally in terms of services and provisions.

