
The story so far

Figs – Fighting Inequality for Girls on the Spectrum was formed in December 2017, in Buckinghamshire, following a parent's experience of the journey to diagnosis and lack of suitable educational provision for girls in the UK. Within 9 months we have grown to a group of almost 3000 members who have had similar experiences up and down the country and beyond. We have featured on local and national media including Wired magazine.



FIGS – FIGHTING INEQUALITY FOR
GIRLS ON THE SPECTRUM

FACEBOOK

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FIGS

*Fighting Inequality for Girls on the
Spectrum*

INFORMATION LEAFLET



WWW.FIGSUK.ORG

Our Aims

We want diagnose tools available to all that picks up the multi presentations of Autism so no child is missed due to not ticking a box, yes girls have eye contact but a good diagnostician would notice that its fleeting and superficial.

We want to see Mental Health support in place that's Autism supportive, currently across the country Autism is under the CAMHS umbrella, Autism isn't a mental health condition, it's a neurological difference, mental health difficulties aren't a foregone conclusion, they occur when child's needs go unrecognised and unsupported.

We want NICE guidelines to be adhered to especially the line that states that a child can present differently in different environment and if one setting reports different behaviours that person, usually a parent, is believed.

We would like there to be investment in LEA specialist schools and mainstream schools so our children's many talents can be nurtured and built upon, our children are different not less.

AUTISM TRAITS IN GIRLS

An autistic girl may appear shy or avoid interacting with others; she may struggle to make the first move socially, but can be keen to have friends. Once she makes them it is often restricted to 1 or 2 close friends.

She may often converse in a rehearsed or scripted manner. She may struggle with social niceties, turn taking and may very much like being in control of games. She may mimic rather than naturally respond, which can make her appear awkward during conversations. She may be drawn to friendships with younger or older children, with playtimes spent mothering the reception and younger children in the school.

She can often play appropriately with toys and engage in pretend play, have imagination and create fantasy worlds. She may arrange toys into groups or sets and may still enjoy playing with toys that you would have expected her to grow out of, like dolls and prams

Their special interests tend to tie in with socially acceptable things and tend to be animals, pop bands, social media, literature.

Eye contact among Autistic Girls may be fleeting and superficial; and they can show empathy and compassion.

They can struggle though with non verbal communication, such as tone of voice and body language and can struggle with changes to routine. Unexpected changes to a day that other children can find exciting, can cause great anxiety.

This anxiety is important, because it can mean that many Autistic girls find it difficult to moderate their emotions when frustrated. This can lead to meltdowns that appear to be disproportionate to the situation. This is fed into by a huge lack of confidence in their abilities, demonstration a fear of failing and making mistakes. A lack of self belief and self esteem.

They can display a sensitivity to sensory stimuli such as taste, texture, temperature, noise, smell and light. They may be seen as quirky to peer group because of dress sense, hair-style or vocabulary.