

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

# Autism Awareness

This Autism Awareness course will help you to recognise the substantial effect that autism has on a child's behaviour, learning, communication, and social interaction. As someone who works with or knows an autistic child, it's important that you understand how much the condition affects their day-to-day lives. With this understanding, you can adapt your setting to help the child manage their condition and get the most out of life.

### **Module One – Introduction to Autism**

This module provides an overview of how autism spectrum disorders affect children, looks at various myths and facts, and explains how the law applies to autism.

- What is autism?
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Myths and misconceptions
- Facts about autism
- What terminology should I use?
- Autism and the law

### **Module Two – What Causes Autism?**

This module explains how autism spectrum disorders are researched and studied and what factors may cause them to develop.

- Genetic factors
- Environmental factors
- Neurological factors
- Other factors

### **Module Three – Autistic Behaviours**

This module looks at the most common challenges that autism spectrum disorders present to children's day to day life, as well as how it comes with its own strengths.

- What are the main areas of difficulty?
- Social communication
- Social interaction
- Social imagination
- Special interests and routines
- Sensory sensitivity
- Related conditions and challenges
- Strengths in autism

### **Module Four – Profiling an Autistic Child**

This module teaches you how to create a profile for each autistic child you work with. This is important to do, as it helps you understand how the condition affects them specifically and how you can make adjustments accordingly.

- Understanding the child
- Behaviour
- Obsessions
- Interactions
- Communication
- Anxiety
- Change
- Finalising the profile

### **Module Five – Your Relationship With An Autistic Child**

This module discusses the importance of developing a positive relationship with autistic children, as well as understanding what aspects of your role can help you to support them.

- Your job role
- Existing knowledge
- Skills
- Characteristics
- Antifragile

### **Module Six – Supporting Children in Everyday Life**

This module explains how you can support autistic children beyond your setting, including working together with their parents.

- Homework
- Trips and outings
- Leisure and entertainment
- Holidays
- Parents and carers

## Aims of the training

By the end of this course, you will understand:

- How autism spectrum disorders present challenges to children.
- What the law requires when working with autistic people.
- Research surrounding autism and its possible causes.
- The common behaviours caused by autism spectrum disorders.
- How to create a 'profile' of an autistic child.
- What a relationship with an autistic child requires from you.
- What you can do to support autistic children in everyday life.