



The Birthday Party Film: Evaluation

The *Birthday Party* is a film to raise awareness about the signs of autism. It was designed for front-line professionals who work with children. The film is a partnership project between government, university and clinical partners and was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Welsh Government.

We gathered views about the film from over 270 professionals working in health, education and social service sectors. Several professions were represented and most respondents came from Wales. They answered questions about their awareness of autism before and after viewing the film and were invited to leave any comments about the film. We also had responses from 120 family members (including parents, grandparents and adults with ASD).

We collected all these views immediately after the film was produced but before the film was released as we wanted the responses to guide us on how best to distribute and present the film.

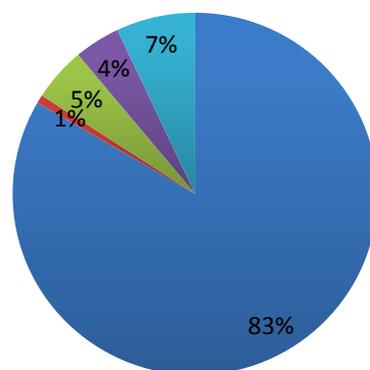
We thank everyone who took part in the evaluation. More responses from people are coming in and we will add those to the summary in the coming weeks. Details about the range of professions and geographical locations, are given at the end of this report, together with the comments received (see Appendix).

Questions asked:

1. Is the film useful for flagging up signs of concern for potential referrals?

First, we first wanted to know whether professionals would find the film useful for flagging up signs of concern that may be relevant for future referral to enable possible support and diagnosis. The responses confirmed that the film would be helpful in this respect.

Do you consider that watching the SIGNS film will assist you in flagging up signs of concern that may be relevant for future referral?



■ Yes ■ Possibly ■ No ■ N/A ■ No response

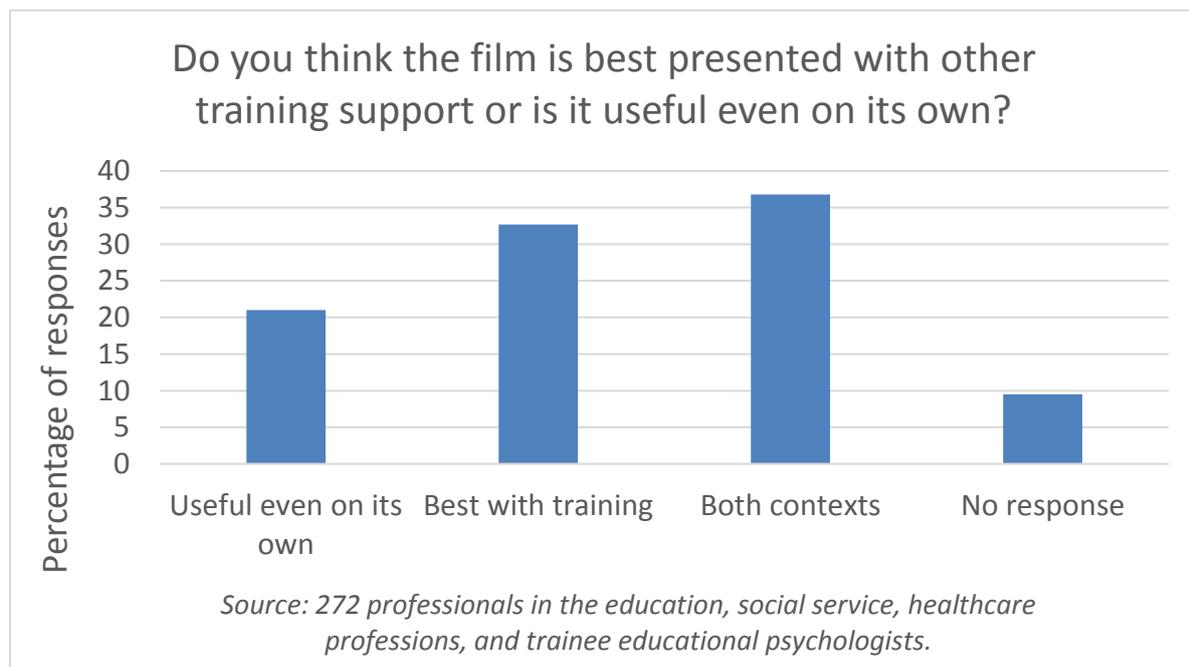
Source: 271 professionals in the education, social service and healthcare professions

2. Should the film be only presented within a professional training session or is it useful even on its own?

We asked professionals if the film could be useful entirely on its own without additional guidance. Their answers were important because we designed the film to be embedded within a professional training session. So if people think the film would be effective as a stand-alone there is potential for releasing it online with open-access - not confined to professionals only. Results showed that one third of professionals ticked the option 'best with training support', however most thought it would be useful in both contexts. Altogether nearly 2/3 considered the film either useful on its own, or within both contexts.

Also see the responses to 'any other comments' at the end (Appendix). There were many requests to distribute the film as widely as possible, not just to professionals but to family members and members of the public.

Consequently we have decided to launch the film online with open-access so that anyone can watch it. However we still recommend elaboration of the content within a training context and discussion in order to enhance learn the most about the points of the film. The addition of guidance notes to accompany the film was also recommended by some viewers (see below).



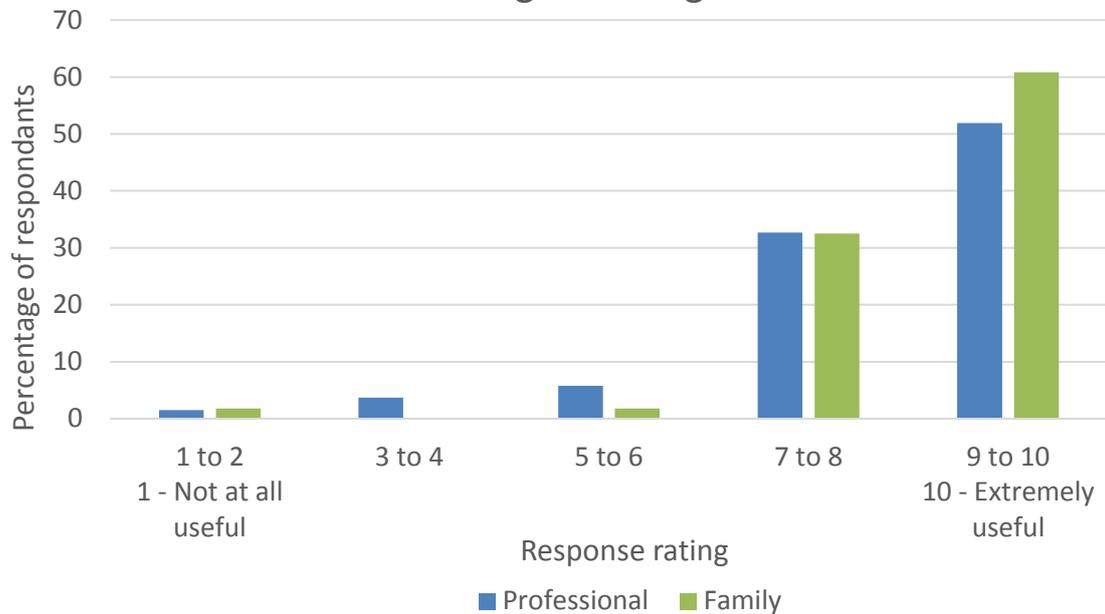
3. How useful is the film for improving awareness and understanding?

A major goal of the evaluation was to learn how useful the film would be for improving awareness and understanding. Both professionals and family members were asked these questions.

We asked people before the film to rate their current understanding of the signs of autism. We also asked about their awareness about differences in how the signs of autism present as this was a special theme of the film.

After they had watched the film we then asked the professionals and family members to rate the usefulness of the film in terms of improving awareness and understanding of the signs.

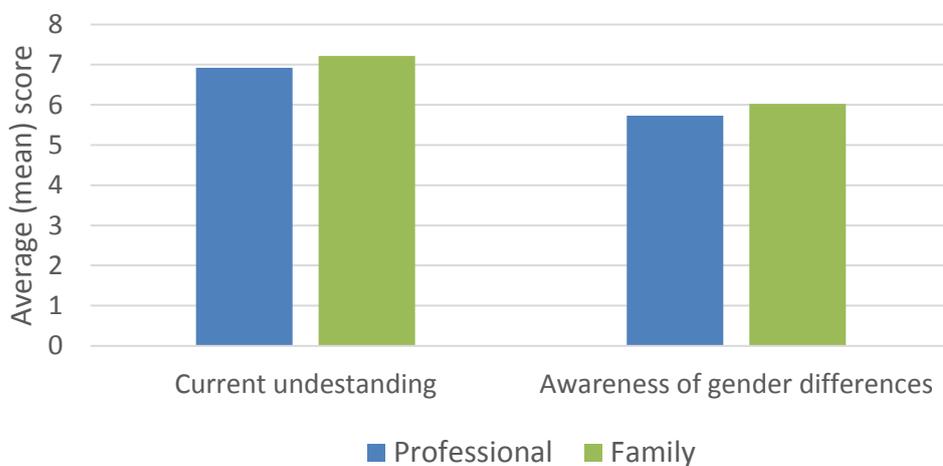
How would you rate the SIGNS Birthday Party film in terms of its usefulness in improving your awareness and understanding of the signs of autism?



Source: 272 professionals in the education, social service and healthcare professions, and 120 family members of individuals with autism

Results showed many high responses of 9-10 out of 10. These ratings were higher than the ratings of current understanding of signs of autism and in particular they were higher than ratings about awareness of about the differences in how signs of autism present.

Current understanding and awareness of differences in signs of ASD



Source: 272 professionals in the education, social service and healthcare professions, and 120 family members of individuals with autism

4. Any comments?

At the end of the list of questions we asked "If you have any other comments about the film, please tell us here." Here we hoped to capture the impressions that were most relevant to the viewer rather than defined by us. Here is a sample of the responses made by nearly 70% of those who answered the earlier questions.

Examples of professionals' comments

Get it out there!!

Brilliant film sensitive to kids and families

Excellent and tremendously informative

I felt each element of SIGNS taught me something new. I'm one to one so only know his

Very useful tool should help raise awareness and understanding as part of training package

Framing it within a birthday party was effective - relatable

Informative, easy to follow, good summary sections

Excellent job in explaining complexity and showing one size does not fit all

Examples of parents' comments

Great. Love every teacher in primary to see this.

All parents starting the diagnostic process should watch this film to help understand their child's behaviour

Please roll it out for others to see!

Really well thought out. Genuinely showed signs to watch

Thank you for raising awareness of autistic girls

varying traits of autism portrayed!! Helps break the stereotyping

Very useful. Everyone should have opportunity to watch

Informative, easy to follow, good summary sections

Appendix

Summary analysis of evaluation feedback for The Birthday Party film.

Data collected at information sessions across Wales on the Integrated Autism Service in Wales (290 people helped) and at the Cardiff CoSPPA (Coalition of Senior Professionals working with People with autism) meeting (15 people).

- Education 124 (45.6%), e.g. teacher, teaching assistant, SENCO etc.
- Healthcare 58 (21.3%) e.g. nurse, OT, SLT, psychologist, paediatrician, psychiatrist etc
- Social Services 44 (16.2%) e.g. social worker, family support worker etc.
- Other or more than one 45 (16.5%), e.g. third sector, charity admin, manager

Professionals resided throughout Wales, and further afield. Locations below are organised by Welsh unitary authorities. 45% of professionals disclosed demographic information.

- Cardiff 14 (5.1%)
- Carmarthenshire 19 (7%)
- Ceredigion 9 (3.3%)
- Conwy 17 (6.2%)
- Denbighshire 14 (5.1%)
- Flintshire 11 (4.0%)
- Gwynedd 4 (1.5%)
- Merthyr Tydfil 1 (.4%)
- Monmouthshire 1 (.4%)
- Pembrokeshire 6 (2.2%)
- Powys 24 (8.8%)
- Rhondda Cynon Taf 1 (.4%)
- Swansea 1 (.4%)
- England 6 (2.2%)
- Scotland 3 (1.1%)

All family member who disclosed locations came from North Wales (24, 20%).

PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Have you received any autism training?		
	Professionals (N=271)	Family (N=120)
Yes	76.8%	57.5%
No	22.4%	42.5%

What is your current understanding of the signs of autism? Circle to rate. Scale 1-10.		
	Professionals (N=272)	Family (N=120)
Mean	6.92	7.22
Standard Deviation	2.03	2.09

How aware of you of <i>differences in the signs of autism</i> , particularly between boys and girls? Scale 1-10.		
	Professionals (N=271)	Family (N=119)
Mean	5.73	6.03
Standard Deviation	2.50	2.63

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

How would you rate the SIGNS Birthday Party film in terms of its *usefulness in improving your awareness of the understanding of the signs of autism?* Scale 1-10

	Professionals (N=260)	Family (N=116)
Mean	8.33	8.74
Standard Deviation	1.85	1.43

Briefly describe any aspects of the film you found especially useful*

97% gave an answer *responses categorised from free response box and 5 most common listed

	Professionals	Family
• Its focus on variation/difference	33.5%	35.0%
• Clarity/presentation/structure/real-life/holistic	24.6%	12.5%
• Details of the signs	11%	9.2%
• Subtle signs	3.7%	15.0%
• Gender-related presentation	8.5%	8.5%

Briefly describe any aspects of the film you did not find especially useful*

• N/A - no aspects described	52.6%	48.3%
• All of it was useful	23.9%	31.7%
• More info/clarity was needed	7%	4.2%
• Particular areas omitted (e.g. meltdowns, problem areas)	5.5%	4.2%
• Less information needed	2.9%	4.2%

If you have any other comments about the film, please tell us here

121 professionals (59%) and 75 family members (79%) left comments

Professionals	Family
not like the word unusual when describing behaviour	Teachers would benefit. shows how all children differ
positive feel to film identifies differences not problems	'content in own world' grated, they are too aware of world
very good in staff training-those working in children + adult	A focus more on females
A good film	Absolutely fantastic! Big step forward re diffs+ female
A great resource where very limited understanding	Addresses misunderstandings (eye contact/girls)
A lot of information to take in within a short space of time.	I realised my awareness was much higher than I thought as I live with these signs every day.
A need for a 'contents' at the intro	Brilliant film - like to share with friends and family
Also could use for staff supporting adults anything like this for adults?	Brilliant film- everyone should watch to have understanding
Breaking it down into small steps, made it easier to understand	Capture home/school difference?
brilliant film sensitive to kids and families	Excellent
brilliant film show to everybody	Excellent - nice pace informative, useful school+family
Brilliant, easy understand, good length	Excellent film
Clear and very well presented	Excellent film, ending embraces positives+support need
clear. calm and chunked into appropriate section	Excellent resource, more parents believed by pros
concerned film will enable people to be amateur diagnostician of children that could be displaying behaviours with numerous causes	Excellent, hope this will be shown to teachers
	Excellent, hugely beneficial to make public

could do one with teenagers using autistic child	Extremely illuminating in recognising signs
Dependent on target audience, it is excellent	Fantastic tool. All school staff and Teach train course
easy to understand	Film done well for all levels of autism
Easy to watch, included all relevant information	Found it excellent - send out -many do not recognise
Engaging, informative and clear, well done!	Found the film very useful to reinforce my knowledge/understanding. All parents starting the diagnostic process should watch this film to help understand their childs' behaviour
Enjoyed the film, found it informative.	Future focus on teens?
Examples were very clear. Useful to show school staff.	Get it out there!
excellent resource	Good length, interesting, informative
excellent more time bit rush music distracting	good presentation. very neatly captured
Excellent - surprised how effective. Narration useful	Great overview with variety. Good non-school context
Excellent and informative	Great resource to explain to parents struggling understand
Excellent and tremendously informative	Great. Love every teacher in primary to see this.
Excellent and useful across the age range	How will you use film? Useful for mainstream teachers
Excellent film clear and simple consolidated knowledge	I am aware, unfortunately not case for public and profs
Excellent job explaining complexity	I found the film interesting and thought it would be useful to others
excellent lots of valuable info.	I loved the film - it covered a lot of main aspects
excellent resource	I think its very useful to highlight how girls can mimic others in social situations, which can 'mask' the signs of autism
Excellent resource	Informative, easy to follow, good summary sections
excellent resource for pro. carers. parents	informative, showing many different sides to having autism. very useful
Excellent resource for teachers with prior experience	It may be useful for professionals to be able to identify how difficult some of these symptoms can be and how challenging the behaviour of a person with autism can be for the people around them
excellent resource schools/PTA/youth clubs	It was a very good film. I was aware of all the aspects
excellent resource useful three types of kids	It was very good. SIGNS was well demonstrated and made easier to understand. Was the child who fell hurt? perhaps a note that this wasnt a problem
Excellent tool in settings where staff have no knowledge	Its a very good start, but as a mum of a very bright 13 year only just diagnosed I would like to see more on how autism in clever girls can be hidden
Excellent, well put together	its visually quite gentle but, considering it may/should be watched by those with ASD, do you need the distracting visuals (moving image indicating change of act) between frames?
Excellent. Comprehensive, but a little too long. I dont think many schools are aware of www.ASDinfoWales.co.uk or your resource videos	Like to see highlights/ another film on sibling support
Fab easy remembered acronym SIGNS	Make language more positive. Seemed deficit centred.
Fab, very informative. Easy to watch/listen to.	more sensory stuff, like light/dark in relation to the trains lined up
film easy to follow benefit professionals/carers	more videos on everyday situations. How the behaviour/signs can massively impact on family life
film interesting and informative	N/A
film was very good and clear	need to cover different age groups
Food nothing mentioned about preferences of food	Please roll it out for others to see!
Framing it within a birthday party was effective - relatable	Please send a copy to my son's headteacher!
Good -ASD children presented in very different ways	Really helpful film for idvs with little understanding
good basic understanding more req. 4 young person	Really well thought out. Genuinely showed signs to watch
Good explainin differences girls and boys	Referring to the other children as 'non-autistic' rather than 'the children without autism' - not all families would be happy with the term autistic/non-autistic. A little PC, but some empathy/understanding here might be helpful to families
Good for secondary school teachers. Film on teen	Send to all primaries.18min out of teach-training day
Good illustration of subtle diffs inds present	Should be available for all to see- esp schools
Good information for all to understand. Well don	Should be made available to SCHOOLS

Good length, keeps attention	Should be made public - schools etc
good pace useful info	should be mandatory for drs, teachers, school nursesm nursery staff to watch
good quality film	Should be sent to schools/playgroups with a checksheet
good resource for teaching to others	Shows how children though similar can be different
Good to use on training, schools and new practit	Some frustrating generalisations - creativity/imaginati
Great film, very interesting. The music was abit irritating at times	Spectrum/variety/person described here
Great for others to access+improve knowledge. Fa	Support session on skills and techniques needed too
Great tool to have	Thank you for raising awareness of autistic girls
Great work. Congratulations!	The film is excellent and would be a very beneficial tool. Well done on info and production
I felt each element of SIGNS taught me something new. I'm one to one so only know his symptoms	The film was informative
I found the film very useful and I think it would be helpful to schools	Useful for parents who get stuck when describing behvs
I liked the storyline - very engaging	Useful to explain to family members
I liked visual aspect reinforced with bullet poi	Useful to have as a resource
I really enjoyed the film. It was informative, clear, accessible and engaging. It also values that each individual is different.	V well mde, excellnt setting, chldrn fantstc, well done!
Informative, easily understandable	Varying traits of autism portrayed!! Helps break the stereotyping
Interesting and valuable tool	Very good
Is it on your website - can it be accessed?	Very good- show to children, not just teachers
is there a film for parents?	Very informative
It was good to see 3 different children who varied in their autistic behaviours	Very informative and interesting
Its great. I would like to show it to all teachers and school staff	Very informative and understanding that every child is different and will display different signs
Love it. Want copy now. Be very helpfl add to training	Very informative as covered lots. Want to learn more
Loved the simplicity communicating complex issue	Very informative. Useful for wide audience, friends etc
Lovely focus,just right,excellent actors,	Very useful and easy to understand - clear
Lovely if available to whole school and for pare	Very useful film. Very well done
Maybe other contexts would be useful, although the birthday party scenaro was interesting. Maybe different age groups would have been helpful too	Very useful for people with little understanding of ASD
More information/training how to support ASD children	Very useful to understand differences btw children
more time between sections to digest each bit	Very useful. Everyone should have opportunity to watch
music not great	Very well made and presented
My concern would be the comorbidity of ASD and ADHD behaviours and developing a misunderstanding of ADHD	Watching film affirmed understanding of son diagnosis
nice film to watch individual diffs not 'odd'	would love to be able to show alot of other people this film. As it is very useful for everyone - parents, carers, professionals
Not convinced this accurately identifies differences between boys and girls	
nothing wish it had been made 40 years ago!	
Perhaps older age-teens/transition?	
Presented in a useful real world scenario. May be useful to do the sane within school context	
Professional-made, positive light, gd wide audie	
Q4continue. Not naughty but in overload	
Range of diffs between inds on spec. sensory aspects	
really easy to watch and understand	
Really enjoyed. Might help older childn understa	
Really good film, not too long. Well done!	
Really helpful and professional resource!	
Really interesting and thought provoking	
really interesting well done	
resources on identifying supporting autistic adu	

sensory overload looks like withdrawal often	
should be publicised and given to schools	
Showing the difference between the three children to show how every child differs, and what to look for. All teachers and support staff need to see it	
Simple and effective, signs good basic information	
simple but very effective!	
Suggest use text from film as checklist	
Thank you for doing this, a film is a great way to share information	
Thank you for sharing the film with us	
Thanks for all that hard work	
The differences between three children. A lot of people think "All autistic people..."	
The film was very interesting and further films would also be beneficial. It would have been useful if the film could have looked at behaviours, comparing meltdowns to general challenging behaviour	
The video is really good!	
This film should be shown in every school to show every teacher the signs. Not just ALCo	
too nice but narrative good	
use in open evening at school	
useful as an introduction for staff across settings	
useful as signs seen were part of real activity	
Useful in terms of some symptoms, however understanding autism is very complex the spectrum is very broad	
useful profess. carers parents effective film	
useful for teachers and LSAs to watch on inducti	
Useful to show to others espec those supporting PWA	
useful tool for training	
Useful, helpful. Parents would find very useful.	
Using three different children to see the varying degrees of autism was useful	
Very beneficial - clear and appropriate in lengt	
very comprehensive good for parents and pros.	
Very easy to watch, liked the way it looked at three children all with different signs	
Very engaging, useful to see gender differences	
Very good film	
very good for increasing awareness	
very good informative film	
Very good quality with all key information included well.	
Very good, clear and interesting	
Very helpful	
Very helpful could be shown to all practitioners	
Very helpful- even more examples wld be helpful	
very informative	
very informative and real	
Very interesting	
Very useful and helpful	
very useful clear understandin diff. behaviours	
Very useful film, easy to watch and understand	
Very useful lots covered	
Very useful powerful tool show in our school	
Very useful tool Should help raise awareness and understanding as part of training package	
Very useful!	
very well organised and thoughtful film	

Very well presented. I was unaware of learned responses. It encouraged me to take the behaviour as a whole into consideration	
Vry useful tool for people with little involveme	
Was useful. I would share with school staff	
Well done excellent ideas and execution	
Well done-thought it was great	
well filmed fantastic resource money well spent!	
Well presented and concise	
Well presented, realistic and informative,	
Welsh language version needed	
When you think you know you learn some more	
Wld be great for educ staff training asap	
Wld be useful to hear children -not just voiceov	
wonderful inductonary tool	
Would be good to have a break after each section to give further information or examples	
Would be great to see this on website for all	
Would like a Welsh version	
would love a copy to spread word!	
Written signs info from the film wouldbe useful	

Professionals and family members were also asked "Having watched the film are the areas of understanding you would like to improve further?" Responses are being analysed and will form recommendations that can be included in accompanying training package for the film.

Comments on The Birthday Party film. These comments were written into the comments box of ASD Info Wales site.

November 2017

Role Consultant community paediatrician

Feedback / Excellent film.

Comments I have a film for you.
The Boudicca

4 interlocking monologues of mothers of children with special needs. One of the mothers, Cassie relates the journey she has taken regarding her daughter Reagan who has ASD - and her acceptance for her daughter as she is.

This film is touring English Medical and nursing schools to teach compassion. There is a post performance discussion which includes real mums of children with special needs.

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The film is found on You Tube "The Boudicca"

I would be happy to offer showing(s) in Wales and very happy to discuss further

Role Mother of ASD boy, support school

Feedback / Great film. Tell me how I can persuade my son's school to get the staff to
Comments watch it!

Role Parent

Feedback / Comments Very well done. Please encourage all professionals to use it and show it to colleages,
Please, please make a similar film showing signs in adults. Dispell the myth that Asperger's Syndrome AKA High Functioning Autism does not mean these adults can automatically manage without any support as this new name implies.

October 2017

Role careers adviser

Feedback / Comments good refresher

Role Senior Speech & Language Therapst

Feedback / Comments Hi,

We recently used the Birthday Party video in training with public health nurses and found it fantastic- it is so clear and really emphasized the points we made in the training.

We were hoping that we could get your permission to use the film in future training.

September 2017

Role careers adviser

Feedback / Comments good refresher

Role Additional Needs Careers Adviser

Feedback / Comments Really interesting. Provides a good basic understanding for parents and individuals interested in childhood traits of ASC.

August 2017

Role Learning Disability Primary Care Liaison Nurse

Feedback / Comments Brilliant and informative film!!!!

Comments Would it be ok to put a link to your webpage on my website which is aimed at primary care staff, carers and patients?

Role Behaviour/Parenting 4-11 years

Feedback / Comments I found this film to be excellent in demonstrating the signs of ASD and how they vary from child to child. It's great to see the theory in action, and I feel this is often missing during training.

I deliver basic behavioural training to staff who work with families in their homes. Would it be OK for me to use this video in my training?

Many thanks

Role Speech and Language Therapist

Feedback / Comments very useful

Role Senior Lecturer

Feedback / Comments An excellent video - do you intend doing any others? It would be really valuable to have something for Students in HE settings?

Role Team Leader

Feedback / Comments This is excellent! Well done. I will definitely use it for training and will share with collegaues

July 2017

Role Careers Adviser
Feedback / Comments This is a very informative video and a very good refresher on ASD

Role Retired Social worker
Feedback / Comments A very useful film which gets its message across clearly. Making clear to signs to be looking for. I am sure it will be welcomed by a whole range of practitioners and parents.

Role Parent
Feedback / Comments Dear team
I wanted to quickly send my thanks and appreciation for this wonderful video, the like of which has been severely lacking online - whilst I understand that it is aimed at professionals, it is equally important for parents, and you should know that the PDA community has been excitingly sharing it!

My background is that I am a recently diagnosed ASD mum with a child who is going through the early referral process, but with very subtle signs. My personal belief is that he has ASD with an aspergers type profile.

I'm in the process of setting up a website and I'm interested to find great resources which I can add for other parents or carers.

I was especially pleased to see the little girl showing the mimicking behaviours and for the comment about dispelling the myths about Eye contact, which is still being used dismissively by many clinicians as far as I can see for children who could be ASD but are managing some kind of eye contact.
Thanks again

Role foster carer/adoptive parent
Feedback / Comments this is such a good film, working and have adopted children with ASD, this shows how children can go under the radar when young, so interesting, can see a lot of my girls' traits here, thank you

Role Parent
Feedback / Comments I have a 5 year old son with atypical ASD with the pathological demand avoidance profile. As his autism can be subtle, this doesn't mean it is mild as his anxiety is very high. I really appreciate this video as this will help to educate professionals to spot those subtle signs.

Role Grandparent
Feedback / Comments Helpful - how can this be expanded to reach others who need to build up confidence? Also, maybe it's just me - but soundtrack distracting.

Role Mother
Feedback / Comments Fantastic, thank you

June 2017

Role Careers Adviser

Feedback / Comments	A very informative film. I would be interested in receiving guidance points for training sessions.
Role	Teacher
Feedback / Comments	A very informative film. I would be interested in receiving guidance points for training sessions
Role	camhs psychologist
Feedback / Comments	very useful demonstration on the subtle differences. I think it would be useful for professionals and possibly families.
Role	Teacher and mother
Feedback / Comments	An excellent short clip with lots of clear pointers as to what to look out for. Very helpful thank you
Role	Clinical Nurse Specialist ASD/ADHD (Adult Mental Helath, ABMU)
Feedback / Comments	Impressed with the film and the narrative and think this would definitely increase awareness of health professionals, even in adult services. However It would be really helpful if a film could be produced to depict the problems related to Adults with ASC's, and its effects and affects on adult daily living, and those supporting them.
Role	Parent
Feedback / Comments	I would just like to say that I found your video wonderful. As parent we first had instincts about Autism being a possibility with our son when he was 1. He is now 3 1/2 and we are still on the very long road to actually getting him an assessment, being told today that at current standing it will be almost a further year until his assesment. This is the first time in 2 1/2 years that I have come across something which is finally 'current' and open about possible behaviours, and most importantly comes away from the stereotypical. My son ticks a lot of those shown in your video, yet I have been met many times by different therapists and psychologists that have said 'oh he looked at me and made eye contact, he's fine, I can take him off the waiting list if you like', or ! 'he just doesnt like sharing, its behavioural issues because he does interact with me' (and so on). Most videos I've been shown have been from the 80's and are that old they've had to be transferred to DVD from video. I sincerely hope that your brilliant video is sent to all professionsals in Wales that have anything to do with dealing with children that could be or are on the spectrum. A simple, well thought out, and respectful film like yours can be emailed easily with no cost to councils and government, but could well help a child who deserves to get the help they need, as early as possible. Thank you for giving me a little ray of hope.
Role	health visitor
Feedback / Comments	very informative video. lots of useful information and a good way of updating. watched the video with a student nurse
Role	Professor and developer of an autism program
Feedback / Comments	I have developed an autism program and train others in this program (incredible years). I would love to use this wonderful video in my trainings... is there a way I can download this for my computer? or put up on my web site? Thank you
Role	managing director

Feedback / Comments I think this would be very useful to use for training purposes and to ensure that there's a consistency in the message we are trying to get across in wales. Am i able to show this video to others in training purposes. Many thanks

Role parent
Feedback / Comments Most informative and well presented. Gave me insight into son's possible issues

Role Careers Adviser
Feedback / Comments excellent.

Role TEACHER
Feedback / Comments Fantastic video, just wish that I had seen this 20 years ago when I first became a teacher!

Role ALN project co-ordinator
Feedback / Comments Excellent resource, would welcome guidance points for training session. An e-learning module linked to it would also be very useful.

I think it will prove to be a valuable tool.

Role SENCo
Feedback / Comments Lovely film but something that would be more appropriate in High School would be helpful.

Role grandmother
Feedback / Comments I think the film is very good, the only thing I would note of a critical nature is that you didn't say that not all these 5 behaviours/signs have to be present for a child to have autism, for example some children on the ASC spectrum do have fairly normal imaginations and display creativity, so some parents or other people watching this might think their child isn't autistic because they don't fulfil all the criteria,(even though you, rightly, did say they are all different and can present in different ways) . You might also have tackled tantrums/,meltdowns and seemingly violent behaviour (like a child pushing another child when really he wants to be friends with the child, but doesn't know how to interact). However you can't cover everything or the film would be way ! too long! In general I think it is very useful and extremely well done.

Role Manager Corporate Safeguarding
Feedback / Comments Excellent film focusing on positive issues and the importance of being aware of the uniqueness of each child. The importance of planning ahead and avoidance techniques would be something to highlight strongly. There were good examples such as the star sandwich which I feel could have been emphasized more strongly

Role Consultant Paediatrician
Feedback / Comments great film, will be really useful for training junior doctors, medical students and other health colleagues and additional guidance would be really useful. I also think it would be a useful tool for parents to use with in our parent training on ASD as it gives lovely examples of the range of presentation and what we are looking for during assessment. Is this possible? or is it only intended for professionals ?

Role Team Leader

Feedback / Comments I'm sure you know but..... there's no sound

Role School Based Counsellor

Feedback / Comments Brilliant! An interesting and insightful way of explaining the signs and behaviours really well!
I would have liked more information on ways of working with and helping these children.
Thank You!

Role Parent & childminder of Asd children

Feedback / Comments Absolutley brilliant film highlighting areas of asd hopefully it will help others in raising the awareness of the signs

Role Bid development and Monitoring Manager (also a qualified teacher and youth and community practitioner)

Feedback / Comments Excellent film

Role Ex paed's nurse, now parent of 4 children, one with severe autism

Feedback / Comments Good little film showing the different nuances of autism. It all looks a bit more pleasant than our personal experience of screaming, self injury, biting, and smearing but we find that side of severe autism is rarely portrayed. Our son wouldn't have even stayed in the room at a party, in fact we wouldn't even have been able to take him. Would be nice if this severe end of the spectrum was also included. Many thanks.

Role MSc Autism and Related Conditions Student

Feedback / Comments I can't tell you how happy I was when I viewed this video. You capture both female and male differences in a way that will provide an excellent insight into the world of autism for front line professionals. So proud that Wales has produced this and can't wait to share with the autism community x One point though, when I view the video I do not see all the text displayed.
Awesome work!!

Role parent of child with ASD

Feedback / Comments absolutely loved this film as it was so good to see how children with the same diagnosis differ from each other, it's all individual on the behaviours and this is the biggest challenge for me, getting people to understand that children with the same diagnosis can still be different

Opinions of autistic adults

We also sought opinions from autistic adults via an online survey. Twenty responded, of whom 14 had received a clinical diagnosis, four were currently seeking a diagnosis, and two were self-diagnosed. Thirteen women took part, along with four men and three with a non-binary identity. Fourteen were from the UK and the remaining six were from the USA, Australia and New Zealand. A summary of the first four questions are presented below (three other questions were asked which are not presented here). Overall, reactions to the film were mixed, with some respondents finding it a useful introduction to autism and praising its inclusion of variations in presentation, particularly in girls and women. Others did not find the film useful, and thought that it promoted stereotypes about autism (in particular around imagination and creativity) and used negative or pathologising language.

1. How would you rate the SIGNS Birthday Party film in terms of its usefulness in improving professionals' awareness and understanding of the signs of autism, where 1 represents not at all useful and where 10 represents extremely useful?

British autistic adults: *Mean*=7.57 (*SD*=1.34)

Non-British autistic adults: *Mean*=4.33 (*SD*=2.66)

2. Can you briefly describe any aspect of the SIGNS film that you thought would be especially useful for professionals? (*N*=19)

Most common categories of response:

Variety of autism presentation, look at patterns rather than rigid sets of symptoms	9 (47%)
Autism in girls and how it may be different	7 (37%)
At the end the brief mention of positives, autistic people happy being themselves, acceptance of autism	4 (21%)
Children with ASD may learn and copy neurotypical behaviour	2 (11%)
Things may not be as they appear on the surface	2 (11%)

3. Can you briefly describe any aspect of the SIGNS film that you thought would not be useful for professionals in terms of understanding of the signs of autism? (*N*=17)

Most common categories of response:

Saying that autistic children lack imagination	7 (37%)
Negative and pathologising language, person first language	4 (24%)
More information needed about positive aspects of autism	3 (18%)
Needs more consideration of the reasons behind social issues	2 (12%)
Misrepresents autism/inaccurate	2 (12%)

4. In your personal opinion, do you think the Birthday Party video would be useful for training professionals? Do you think it would be best presented with other training support or is it useful even on its own? (N=19)

