

Dear SENCO,

Autistic children and young people may be struggling with emotional regulation during this period of significant and unplanned for change. ***The emotional well-being of students and their families should always be paramount at this very difficult time.*** A punitive approach must be avoided and safeguarding issues must be prioritised.

Before considering the activities to send home for autistic children/YP, please consider the following recommendations related to home learning.

- **Timetable and Task Checklist** - Ensure that families are using a visual timetable at the child's level. Activities should then be supported by a task checklist where appropriate. Families may need timetable cards with visuals specifically for the home as it may be confusing to use school timetable cards. Widget Online is currently free; <https://widgeonline.com>
- **Achievable** – Ensure that you are sending activities that are achievable, well differentiated and of interest to the child/YP.
- **Flexible** – Be flexible about your expectations and discuss this with families, including pupils if possible. Any pressure will just exacerbate the situation and cause unnecessary stress.
- **Interest** - Use the child's/YP's interest or learning style. Suggest activities that are meaningful and purposeful.
- **Connectedness** – Can you conference call or call your pupil? Or provide a lesson video on a conference call or video? Seeing that familiar adults are well will relieve anxiety and increase motivation.

The Autism Advisory Team has produced home learning packs for each SCERTS level and for Secondary pupils. SCERTS stands for Social Communication Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support Strategies. Children and Young people are grouped into three levels as follows:

**Social Partner:** 'before words', or using very few words, signs or symbols

**Language Partner:** 'emerging language', 100 symbols, words, phrases, signs  
Up to 20 word combinations

**Conversational Partner:** 'chatty kids', Putting sentences together  
More than 20 word combinations

Please contact your Autism Advisory Teacher for these home learning packs or support with resources regarding differentiation.

Kind Regards,

Barnet Autism Advisory Team