

**Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD): What works in the classroom?**

**Information Sheet for Parents**

This project has been approved by the Griffith University Ethics Committee, see Griffith University Research Ethical Clearance Ref No. 2016/471.

**Who is conducting this research?**

The study is being conducted byMiss Rhylee Sulek, a PhD Candidate, under the supervision of Dr David Trembath, Professor Deb Keen and Dr Jessica Paynter from Griffith University. Contact details can be found on the last page.

**Why is this research being conducted?**

The aim of this research is to better understand the current practices that exist to support children with ASD in mainstream classrooms. We are contacting you as your child has previously been involved in research at AEIOU and we would like to follow them as they enter their first year of school. The research will involve your child’s teacher participating in a structured interview where they will be asked questions about: (a) their experience teaching a child with ASD, (b) the types of strategies they use in the classroom to assist the integration of children with ASD, (c) the types of systems they feel would work to better support staff and students when working with children with ASD, and (d) any other issues they feel relate to issues around their knowledge, use and proposed solutions to improving outcomes for children.

**What you will be asked to do.**

If you consent to participate in the study, we will be asking you to provide information regarding the school your child will be attending in their prep year. Schools will then be contacted so that we can arrange to conduct the structured interview with your child’s teacher. Please note that principals and teachers will have the opportunity to decline the invitation to participate.

**Expected benefits of the research.**

Although you may not benefit directly from participating in this research, this research will more generally contribute to understanding the types of strategies that are considered appropriate for use in mainstream classrooms. It is expected that this research will help us gain a broader understanding of how children transition from early intervention settings, to the school environment. Therefore, this information might be used in the future to assist teachers and schools, as well as the wider research community, to understand and better develop strategies or supports to facilitate learning for children with ASD.

**Risk management.**

There are no foreseeable risks associated with participation in this research. Participation in this research is voluntary and you can withdraw at any time without comment or question. Griffith University conducts research in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans. Please feel free to contact the researchers if you have any questions. If you have any additional questions or concerns about ethical issues, please contact research-ethics@griffith.edu.au.

Interviews with your child’s teacher will be digitally-taped, but recordings will be erased following transcription. Any identifying elements (e.g., names of individuals, students being discussed, school details) will be removed from reflective and interview data prior to analysis. Interview content will not be disclosed to third parties without both parents, teachers and the school’s principal consent, except to meet government, legal, or other regulatory authority requirements. Anonymity in reporting will at all times be safeguarded. As required by Griffith University, all audio recordings will be erased after transcription. However, other research data (interview transcripts and analysis) will be retained in a locked cabinet and/or a password protected electronic file at Griffith University for a period of five years before being destroyed.

**Feedback to you**

As we will be asking your child’s teacher questions about the knowledge, skills and practices, we will not be providing direct feedback to each family. Plain language summaries of results can be forwarded to families, at their request, after analysis. The results will also be presented at professional events (e.g., conferences) and will form part of Miss Sulek’s research thesis.

**The ethical conduct of this research**

If you have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the research project you should contact the Manager, Research Ethics on (07) 3735 4375 or research-ethics@griffith.edu.au.

**Legal privacy statement**

The conduct of this research involves the collection, access and / or use of your identified personal information. The information collected is confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties without your consent, except to meet government, legal or other regulatory authority requirements. A de-identified copy of this data may be used for other research purposes. However, your anonymity will at all times be safeguarded. For further information consult the University’s Privacy Plan at http://www.griffith.edu.au/privacy-plan or telephone (07) 3735 4375.

**Questions / further information**

You are welcome to ask questions about the research and raise any concerns you have before agreeing to participate. These questions can be directed to Dr David Trembath at Griffith University (email: D.Trembath@griffith.edu.au ph: (07) 5678 0103) or to Miss Rhylee Sulek (email: r.sulek@griffith.edu.au).

*It is recommended that you retain this information sheet for your own records.*

**Thank you for your time and effort in participating in this study.**

**Without your help this type of research would not be possible.**



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**Consent Form (Parents)**

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By signing below, I confirm that I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet and in particular have noted that:

* My involvement in this research will involve providing researchers with information on my child’s primary school;
* I have had any questions answered to my satisfaction;
* I understand the risks involved;
* I understand that my participation in this research is voluntary;
* I understand that if I have any additional questions I can contact Dr Trembath or Miss Rhylee Sulek;
* I understand that I am free to withdraw at any time, without explanation or penalty. Doing so will mean that neither my child, or his or her teacher’s contributions to the study, will be included;
* I understand that I can contact the Manager, Research Ethics, at Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee on (07) 3735 4375 (or research-ethics@griffith.edu.au) if I have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the project; and
* I agree to participate in the project.

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| Name of Child |  |
| School child is attending in 2017 |  |
| Parent Name |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |