

# *EarlyBird Programme*



## **What is the NAS EarlyBird Programme?**

The NAS EarlyBird Programme is a three-month training programme that combines group-training sessions with individual home visits that aims to help parents to support and understand their child's Autism.

## **Who runs the Programme?**

The Programme is run by Cheryl Brown and Laura Bulgarelli or Jeannette Pike who are all based at Winchelsea Special School. Cheryl, Laura and Jeanette all have many years experience of working with pupils who have Autism in many different contexts. They have been trained to run the programme at the NAS EarlyBird Centre in South Yorkshire and have run many courses between them.

## **How long is the programme?**

The programme is usually run at Winchelsea School for 12 weekly sessions on Friday morning. (Term time only) 4 of these sessions will be 1:1 home visits or a "messy and make" session where parents have the opportunity to make visual resources to use with their child.

## **Who can attend the programme?**

The Programme is for families of pre-school children 0 to 4 years with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder. Two places are allocated for each family. The programme is offered to families who live in the Poole, Bournemouth or Christchurch area.

## **What are the aims of the programme?**

To empower parents / carers.

To support families in the period between diagnosis and school placement.

To help establish good practice in these very important early stages of development.

## **What will we learn about?**

The NAS EarlyBird programme will help you to:

- Understand your child's Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- Structure interaction to develop communication.
- Develop practical strategies to pre-empt problem behaviours and/or manage those which do occur.

**What do I do next?**

If you are interested then please contact **Cheryl Brown** at Winchelsea School for more details, an information pack or an informal chat.

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