

ACP

Association of Child
Psychotherapists

Working with children on the autism spectrum:

Learning from child psychotherapy research and practice for the multi-disciplinary team

A three-part webinar series exploring child psychotherapy contributions to treatment, research and the centrality of multi-disciplinary co-operation.

With Dr Anne Alvarez & Professor Maria Rhode and leading clinicians in the field.

9, 30 June, 7 July 2022
8-9.30pm

[Book here](#)

Recent years have seen exciting new findings on work with children on the autism spectrum, but their implications have often not influenced practice on the ground. This 3-part, multi-disciplinary webinar series, with contributions from some of the most experienced child psychotherapists and other leading clinicians working with autism, addresses clinical practice as well as research findings.

Children on the spectrum often express their feelings in atypical ways, which can complicate the task of those caring for them.

The three webinars will focus on the importance of understanding each child's unique personality in order to support their relationships with family members and others. This approach is relevant across a wide variety of professional settings, and participants will be encouraged to make links with their own practice. Audience participation is welcomed throughout, and presentations are followed by a period for discussion.

The series will be of interest to child psychotherapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, paediatricians, GPs, teachers, health visitors, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, music therapists, parents, and anyone involved with children on the spectrum.

Session 1 -

What child psychotherapists do: Treatment, research and the centrality of multidisciplinary co-operation

Presenters:

Dr. Anne Alvarez, Dr. Tony Lee and Sheila Levi.

Learning Outcomes

After this session, you will know how our understanding of autism spectrum disorder has developed, about the impact of autism on children and families and about the ongoing evolution of ideas about treatment. Hearing from clinicians at the heart of these developments, you will learn what psychotherapy with children on the spectrum looks like and what it can offer them. You will understand why multi-disciplinary work is essential, and will hear about some of the research findings concerning this work.

Biographies

Dr. Anne Alvarez is PhD, M.A.C.P is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist and retired Co-Convener of the Tavistock Clinic Autism Service where she still teaches. She has published widely - her latest book *The Thinking Heart: Three Levels of Psychoanalytic Therapy with Disturbed Children* was published in April 2012.

Dr. Tony Lee was formerly Head of Child Psychotherapy at UCLH. For many years he worked as a clinician and researcher in the Tavistock Autism Service. Previously he was a developmental researcher who, with Prof Peter Hobson, published many papers on the psychology of autism.

Sheila Levi is a Senior Child-Adolescent Psychotherapist; Adult Psychoanalyst; Chartered Clinical Psychologist. Her wide clinical experience includes work with children with complex needs, those with neurodevelopment disorders and learning difficulties, as well as child and adult asylum seekers and refugees. She brings a rich, cross cultural perspective to clinical work, research and teaching.

Session 2 -

Early intervention: Rationale, techniques and research findings

Presenter:

Professor Maria Rhode

Learning Outcomes

After this session, you will understand why early intervention for young children at risk of autism is important. You will know about different kinds of early intervention and about some recent research findings on outcomes. You will be familiar in detail with the process and outcome of a particular early intervention that is informed by child psychotherapy, about the impact it appears to have in significantly decreasing the subsequent rate of diagnosis.

Biography

Professor Maria Rhode is Emeritus Professor of Child Psychotherapy at the Tavistock Clinic and UEL. She has co-convened the Tavistock autism workshop, and published widely on autism and language development. For more than 20 years her main interest has been in early intervention for toddlers at risk of autism.

Session 3 -

Multidisciplinary teamworking with children on the spectrum and the contribution of child psychotherapy

Presenters:

Dr. Myooran Canagaratnam; Diana Goldin; Todd Hinds; Dr. Pauline Lee; Adele O'Hanlon; Dr. Nancy Sheppard

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will have a deeper understanding of what child psychotherapists can bring to the multi-disciplinary team working with children on the spectrum and their families, and of how clinicians can reinforce each other's contribution across settings. You will know how attention to the feelings of the child and the family can help them to make the best use of the provision available. You will have been invited to explore the relevance of these ideas to your own practice and workplace, to the NHS Long-term Plan and potentially, to commissioning and policy making.

Biographies

Dr. Myooran Canagaratnam is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in the Autism and Learning Disabilities Service at the Tavistock Clinic and leads the diagnostic assessment service. He runs Autism training courses for professionals across the UK and is interested in the range of therapeutic approaches to supporting children, adolescents and young people with Autism and other developmental conditions. He is Training Programme Director for Child Psychiatrists at the Tavistock.

Diana Goldin is mum to Noah, our surviving twin, survivor of being born at 23 weeks' gestation and all that ensued in the aftermath. Professionally, Diana is a Paediatric Occupational Therapist and a Family and Systemic Psychotherapist in a neurodevelopmental CAMH service and in private practice.

Todd Hinds is a Psychoanalyst and Child Psychotherapist working in Liverpool and Derbyshire. He has a background in Education and is interested in supporting children and young people with Autism in schools. He has developed a model of integrated provision of psychotherapy for children with Autism in school settings, supporting dynamic developmental engagement between young person and the group.

Dr. Pauline Lee is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalyst. She has worked for many years in perinatal and parent infant mental health in the NHS. She is the Greater Manchester Lead for Parent Infant Mental Health. She works in private practice as a Psychoanalyst.

Adele O'Hanlon trained as a child & adolescent psychotherapist at the Tavistock. She is the lead child & adolescent psychotherapist in MOSAIC CAMHS, a service for children with disabilities and their families. She has a particular interest in work with under 5s.

Dr Nancy Sheppard is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Service manager for Mosaic CAHMS a specialist service for children with disabilities and their families. She has a long history as a clinician working with people with learning disabilities and was previously lead Head of Child Psychology at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust.

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Speakers & chair

**Dr Anne Alvarez . Dr Marie
Bradley . Dr Myooran
Canagaratnam . Diana
Goldin . Todd Hinds . Dr
Pauline Lee . Dr Tony Lee .
Sheila Levi . Adele O'Hanlon
. Prof Maria Rhode . Dr
Nancy Sheppard .**

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