2nd edition Fully revised and extended

# Understanding and Responding to Autism: The SPELL framework

Learner's workbook

Julie Beadle-Brown and Richard Mills



Pavilion

## Understanding and Responding to Autism: The SPELL framework (2nd edition)

### Learner's workbook

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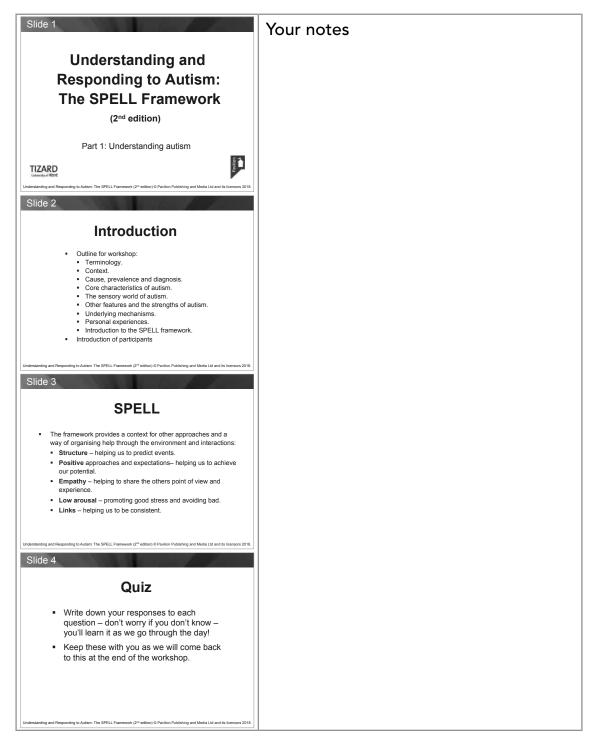
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# Part 1: Understanding autism

## Introduction

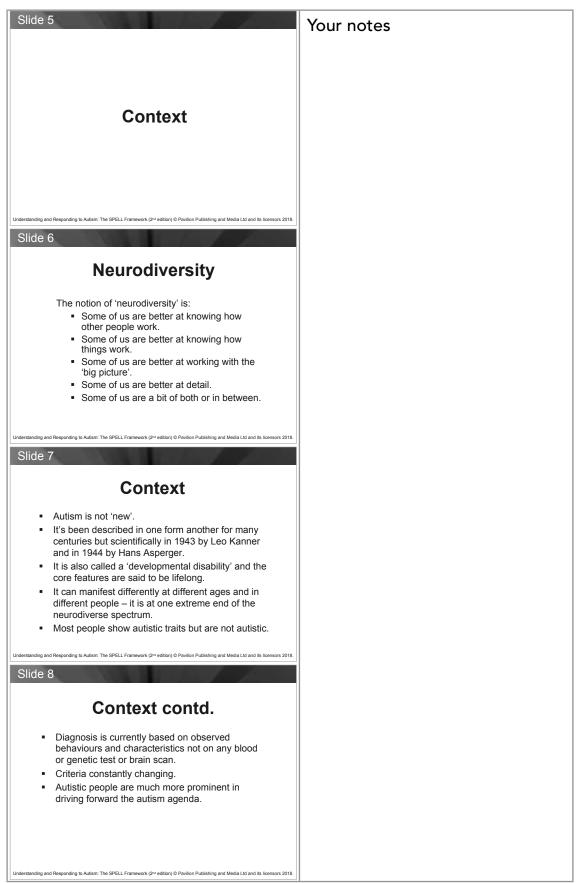
This booklet gives you the slides the trainer will use during the *Understanding and Responding to Autism* training. It also give you space to make notes and to respond to any exercises during the training. At the end of Part 1 and Part 2 you will find some further reading you might like to look at.



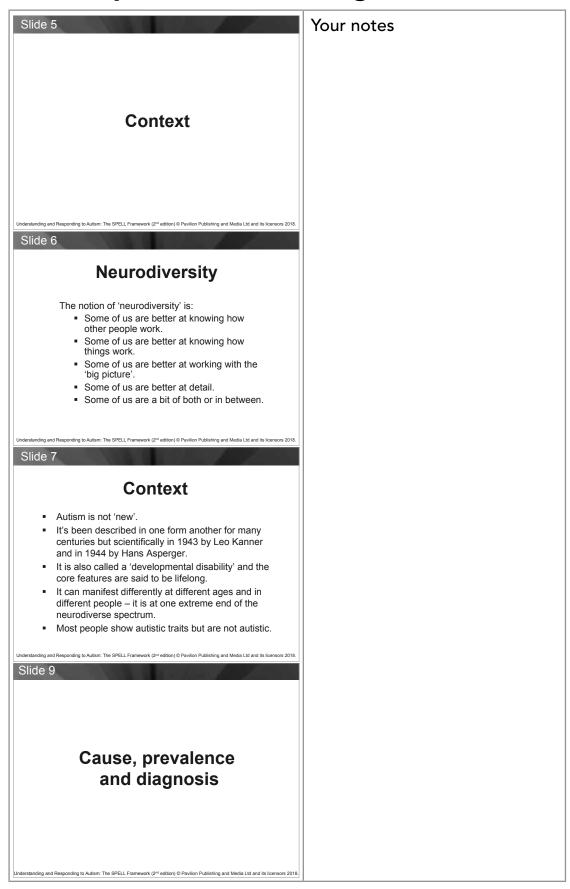
## Quiz

1.	Autism affects more males than females	YES	NO	MAYBE
2.	Autism is caused by the MMR vaccine.	YES	NO	MAYBE
3.	Most people on the autism spectrum are of average or above average IQ.	YES	NO	MAYBE
4.	Reported prevalence rate of autism in the UK is approximately.	1 IN 60	1 IN 100	1 IN 200
5.	If a family has one autistic child the other children will also be on the autism spectrum.	YES	NO	MAYBE
6.	The number of people on the autism spectrum are entering higher education (university) is on the increase.	YES	NO	MAYBE
7.	The proportion of autistic people who have at least one co-occurring condition is:	20%	50%	70%
8.	Autistic individuals are more likely to come into contact with the law.	YES	NO	MAYBE
9.	Autistic individuals all have sensory sensitivities and/or difficulties or differences in sensory processing.	YES	NO	MAYBE
10.	The proportion of autistic individuals who show exceptional skills (e.g. in music, drawing, maths) is:	10%	25%	50%
11.	Autistic individuals are generally better at understanding the bigger picture (e.g. the wider context, the gist of a message) than understanding details.	YES	NO	MAYBE
12.	Difficulties with executive functioning (e.g. planning and organising, processing sequences, inhibiting inappropriate behaviour) are unique to autistic individuals.	YES	NO	MAYBE
13.	The number of children and adults reported as on the autism spectrum is pretty much the same the world over.	YES	NO	MAYBE
14.	Autistic individuals experience higher levels of stress and anxiety than those without autism.	YES	NO	MAYBE

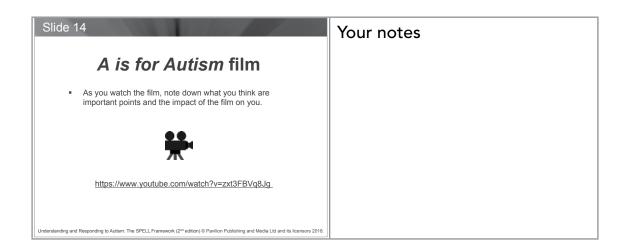
## Context



## Causes, prevalence and diagnosis



Slide 10	Your notes
Causes of autism	
<ul> <li>No single cause or trajectory.</li> <li>Many possible causes explored.</li> <li>The brain works differently – autistic intelligence or way of thinking.</li> <li>Genetic factors are important but research has not identified specific genes responsible.</li> <li>Diagnosed on the basis of behaviour and not brain differences or genes.</li> <li>Varying degrees of impact on the individual.</li> <li>Not caused by poor parenting!</li> <li>No evidence for environmental factors e.g. MMR or pesticides.</li> <li>Understanding and Responding to Autism: The SPELL Framework (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) © Pawlion Publishing and Media Ltd and its licensors 2018.</li> </ul>	
Slide 11	
How many people are on the autism spectrum?	
<ul> <li>Depends on where you live – differences between different countries and within countries.</li> <li>One factor is the availability of diagnostic services another is awareness.</li> <li>In UK approximately 1 in 100 (children and adults).</li> <li>More males than females (4:1 classic autism; 15:1 Asperger) BUT this is thought to be an underestimate of the number of women due to a different presentation of the core characteristics.</li> </ul>	
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Slide 12	
Diagnosis of autism	
<ul> <li>Core features</li> <li><u>Presence</u> of unusual developmental and behavioural features.</li> <li><u>Absence</u> of usual developmental and behavioural features.</li> <li>Co-occurring problems such as anxiety, epilepsy, learning difficulties.</li> </ul>	
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Characteristics of autism	
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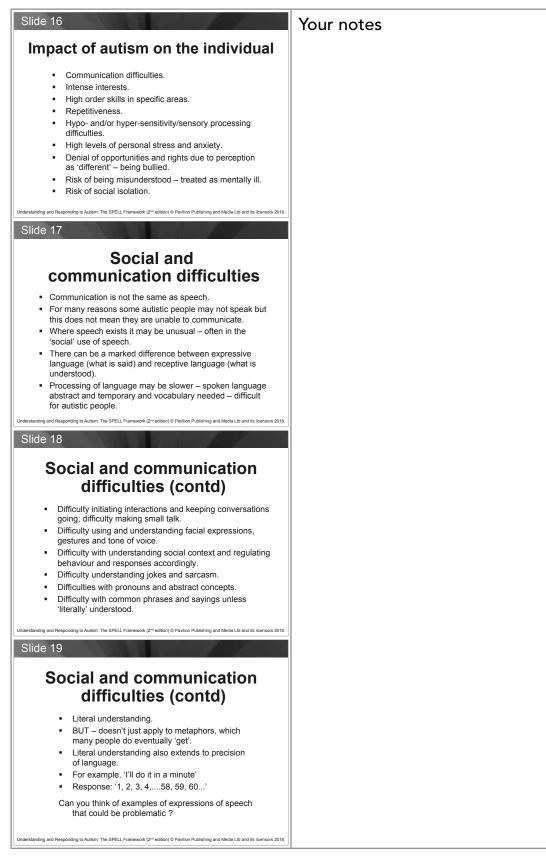


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## A is for Autism film

Use this space to reflect on the A is for Autism film.

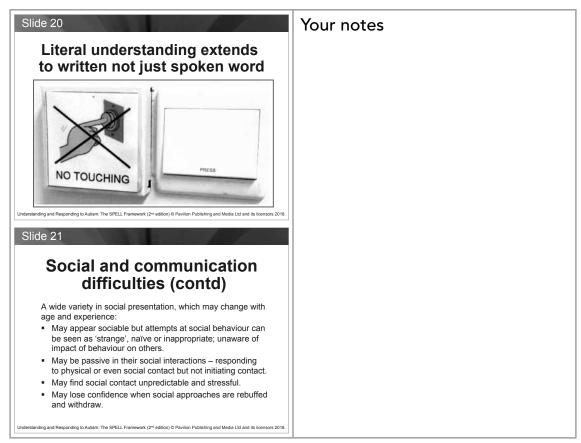
# Impact of autism and social and communication difficulties (Part 1)

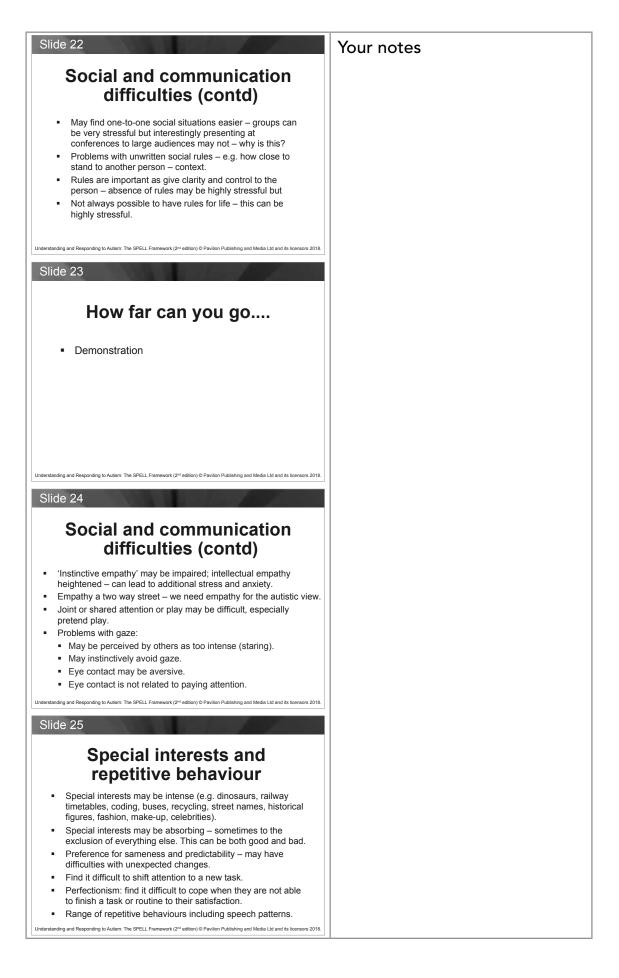


### Literal understanding

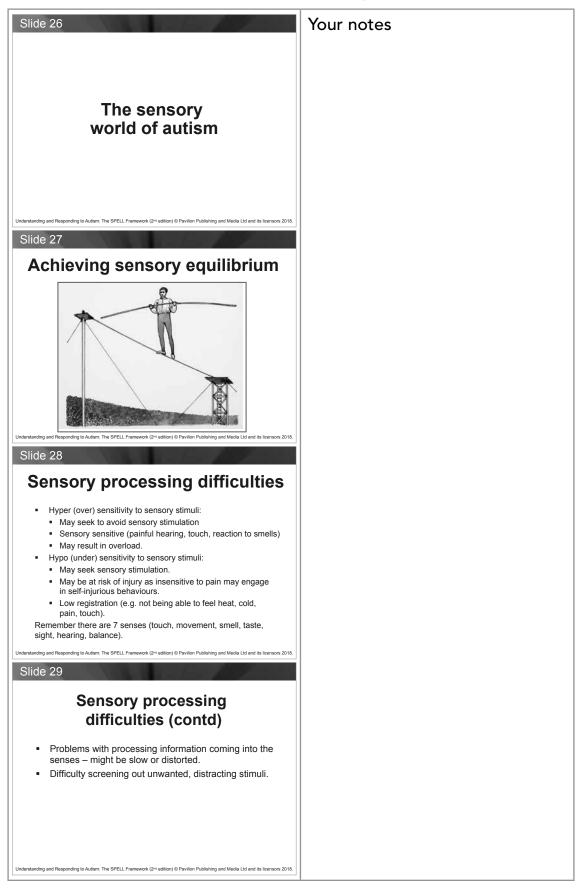
Use this space to write down your examples of phrases that are difficult to understand if you only have a literal understanding.

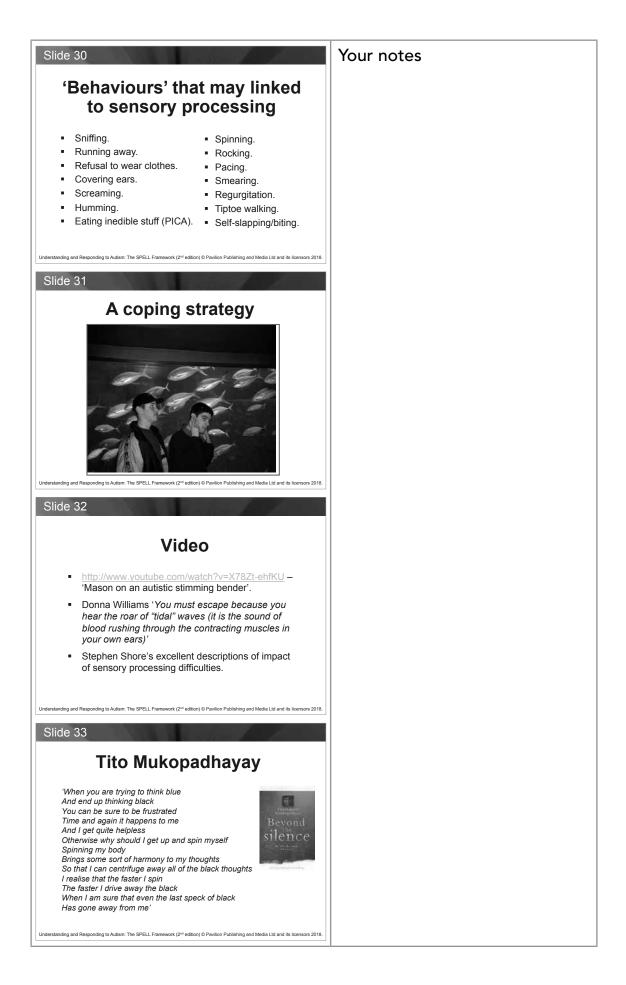
# Social and communication difficulties (Parts 2 and 3)

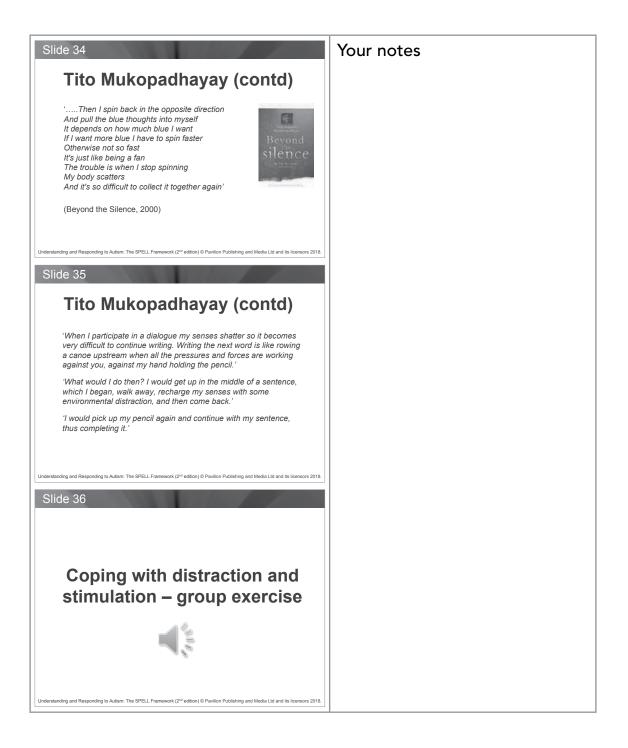




## Special interests and sensory issues

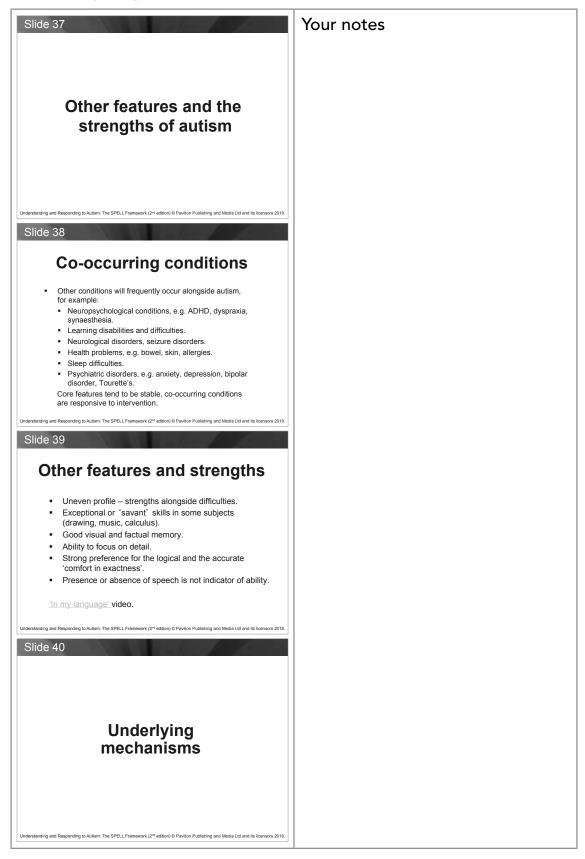


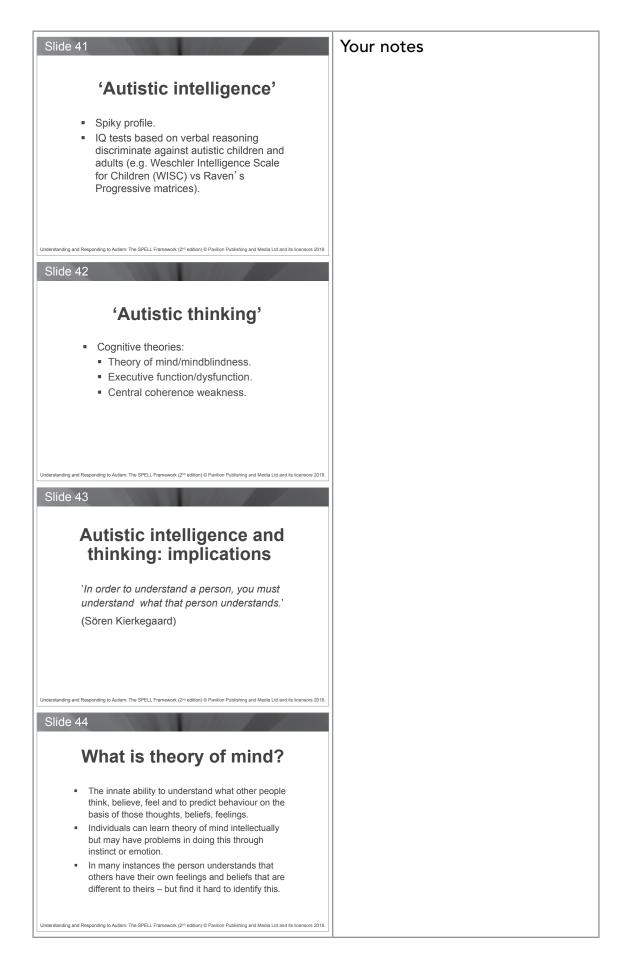


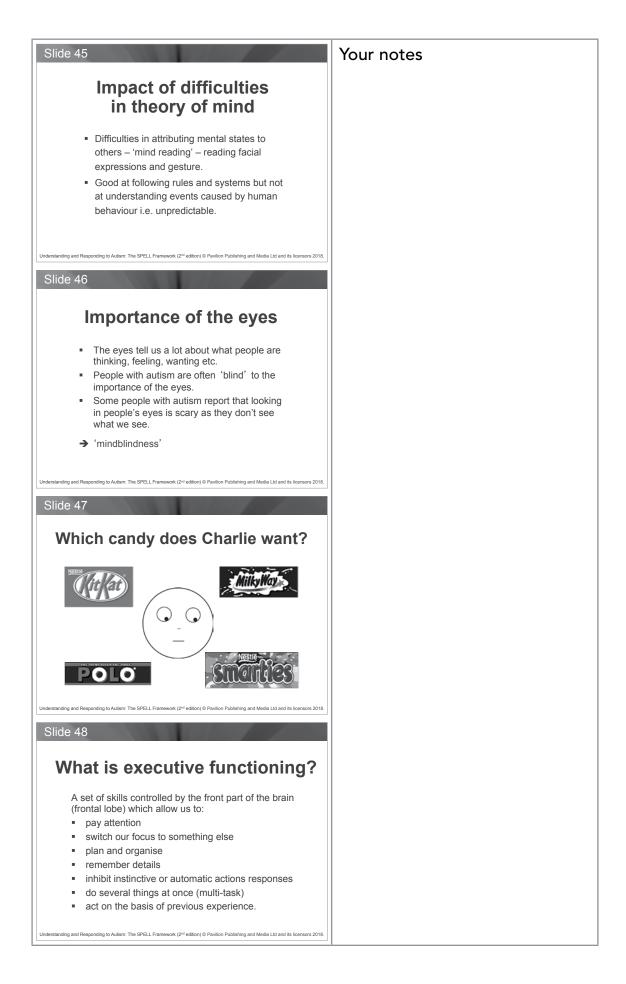


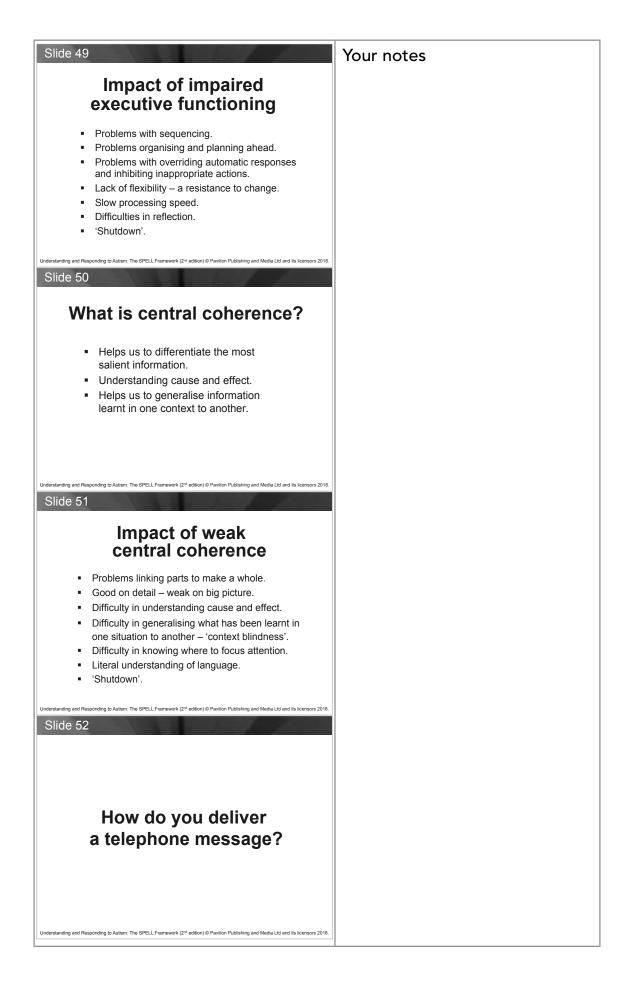
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# Other features and strengths and underlying mechanisms



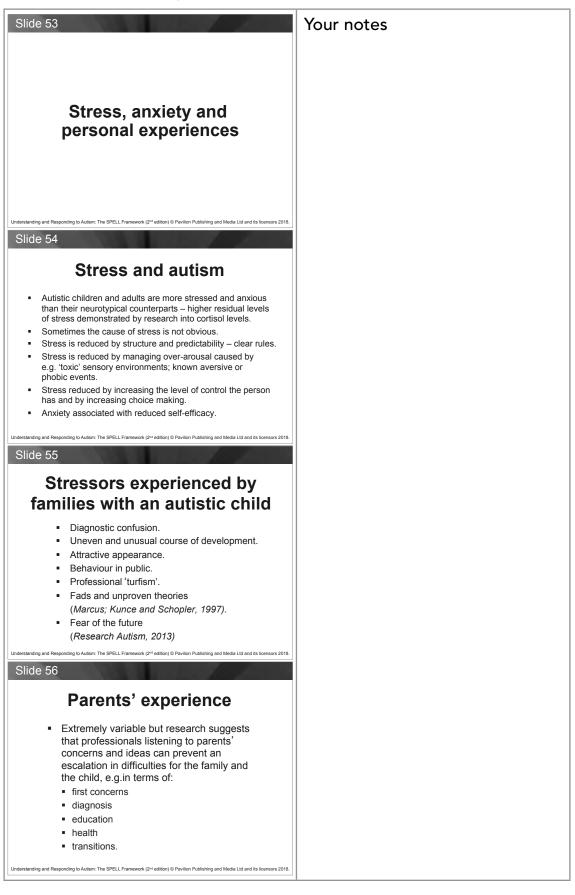


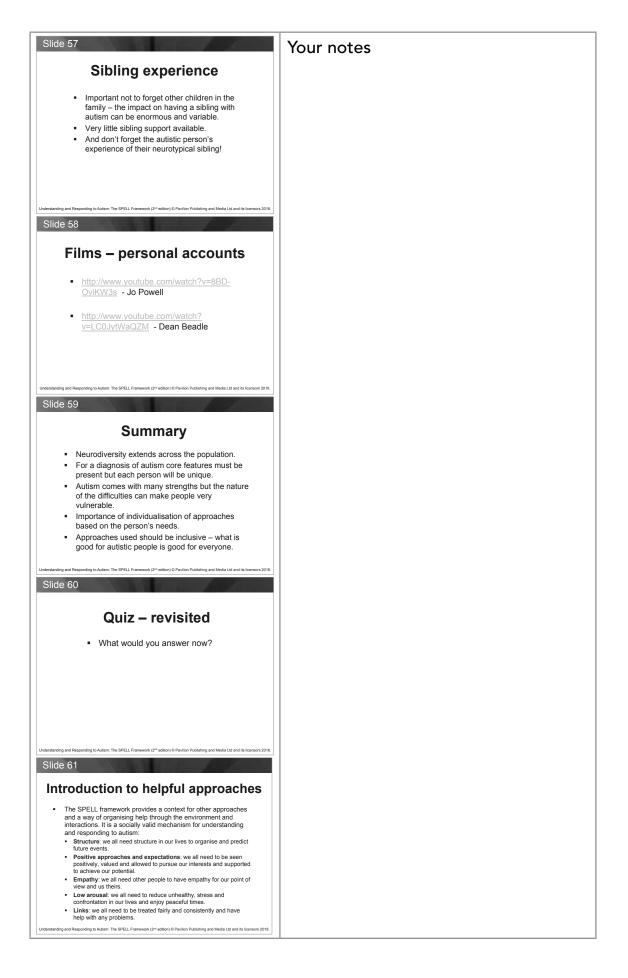




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## Stress, anxiety and personal experiences





## **Further reading**

Attwood T (2007) The Complete Guide to Asperger Syndrome. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Baron-Cohen S (2008) Autism and Asperger Syndrome: The facts. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Frith U (2008) Autism: A very short introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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Simone R (2010) Asperger's On the Job: Must-Have Advice for People with Asperger's or High Functioning Autism and their Employers, Educators and Advocates. Arlington, USA: Future Horizons.

### Useful websites for further information

Autism Research Centre, University of Cambridge: www.autismresearchcentre.com

 $Research \ Autism: www.researchautism.net$ 

Steven Shore's website: www.autismasperger.net

The National Autistic Society: www.autism.org.uk

The Tizard Centre's website: www.kent.ac.uk/tizard (information on further study related to Autism)

Christopher Gillberg's webpage at University of Gothenburg (useful source of relevant research): https://www.gu.se/english/about\_the\_university/staff/?selectedTab=2&userId=xgilch&languageId=100001&siteNodeId=587114 &contentId=-1&originalRequestURI=/english/about\_the\_university/staff/&publicationsPerPage=500

Autism Society of America: www.autism-society.org

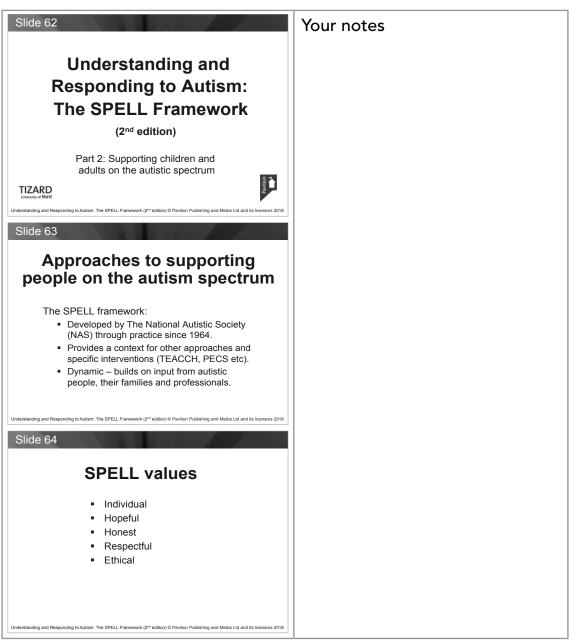
Temple Grandin's website: http://www.templegrandin.com

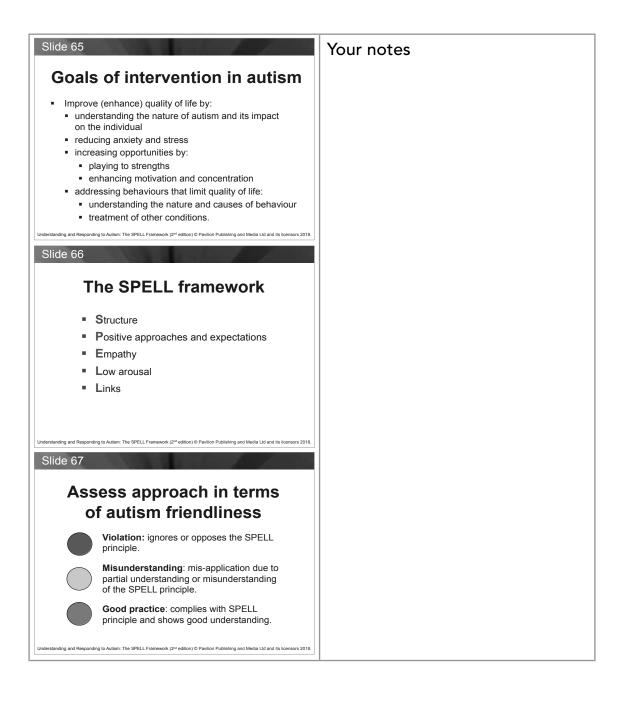
Website set up by Rudy Simone: Aspergirl Society – this page talks about female traits. http://aspergirlsociety.org/ female-as-traits/

# Part 2: Supporting children and adults on the autism spectrum

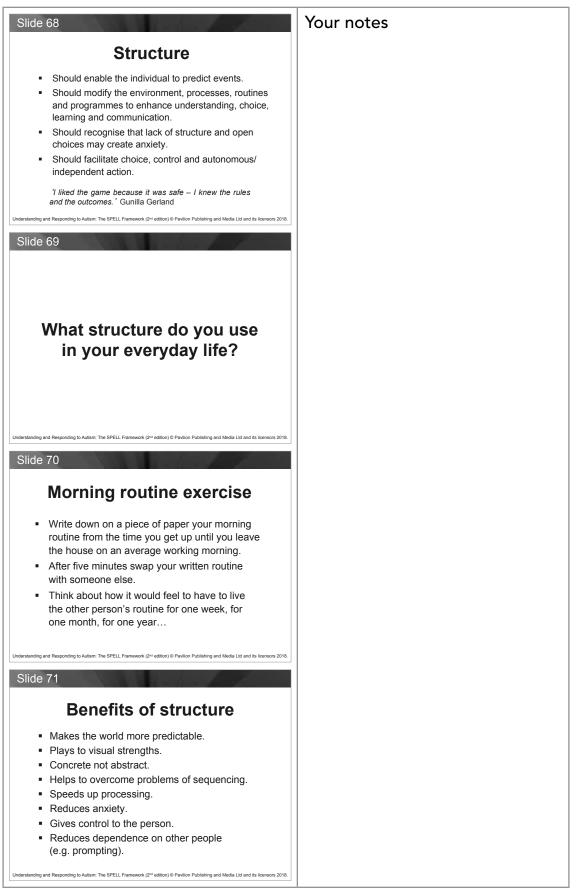
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## The SPELL framework





#### Structure



#### Examples of structure you use:

#### Morning routine exercise

Write down the steps you go through on an average morning from when you wake up until you leave the house to go to work/college.

Slide 72	Your notes
Structure	
Examples of good practice	
<ul> <li>Schedule, timetable or programme which clearly depicts:</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>what will happen and when</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>where to get help or materials.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Programme facilitates change and how to manage unforeseen events.</li> </ul>	
• Activities reflect the seasons of the year.	
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Slide 73	
Structure	
Examples of misunderstanding	
Everyone follows same schedule or routine.	
<ul> <li>Routines become fixed.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Activities always follow same pattern.</li> </ul>	
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Slide 74	
Silde 74	
Structure	
Suuciule	
Examples of violation	
<ul> <li>No pre-planned activity.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Environment chaotic or disorganised.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Absence of visual signs, schedules.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Activity dependent on unpredictable factors (e.g. weather, availability of staff).</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Person becomes over-dependent on verbal</li> </ul>	
prompts (due to lack of visual cues).	
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Use this space for any notes you want to make about the photos and videos you see related to structure.

#### Slide 110

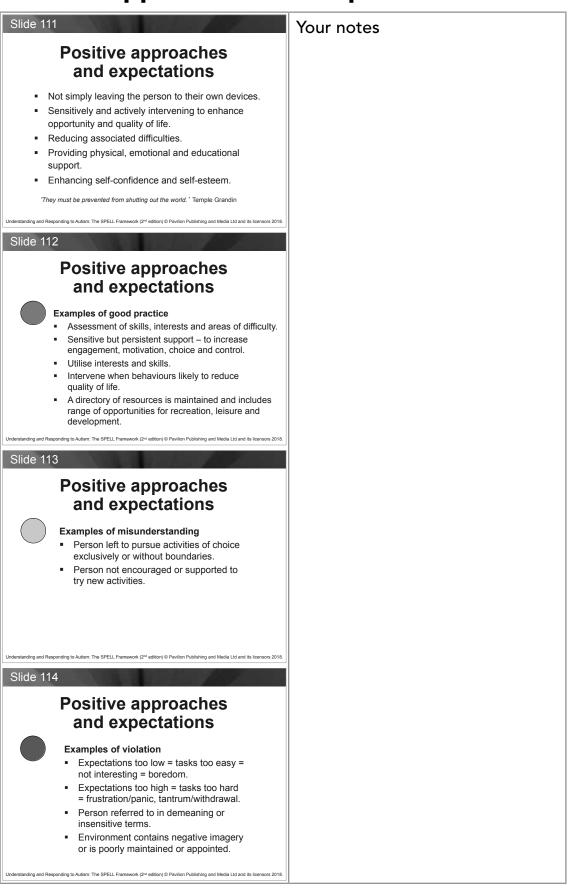
### Scenario: Harry, Jim & John

 Harry, Jim and John all attend the day centre in the local town three days a week. They all travel together and when they come in from the day centre, staff show them their visual timetable for the evening, which consists of the same activities for all three – snack, TV, craft activity, eating dinner, making a hot drink, TV, bath or shower, and bed.

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## Reflections on Harry, Jim and John scenario

## Positive approaches and expectations



Use this space for any notes you want to make about the photos and videos you see related to positive approaches and expectations.

#### Slide 126

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#### Your notes

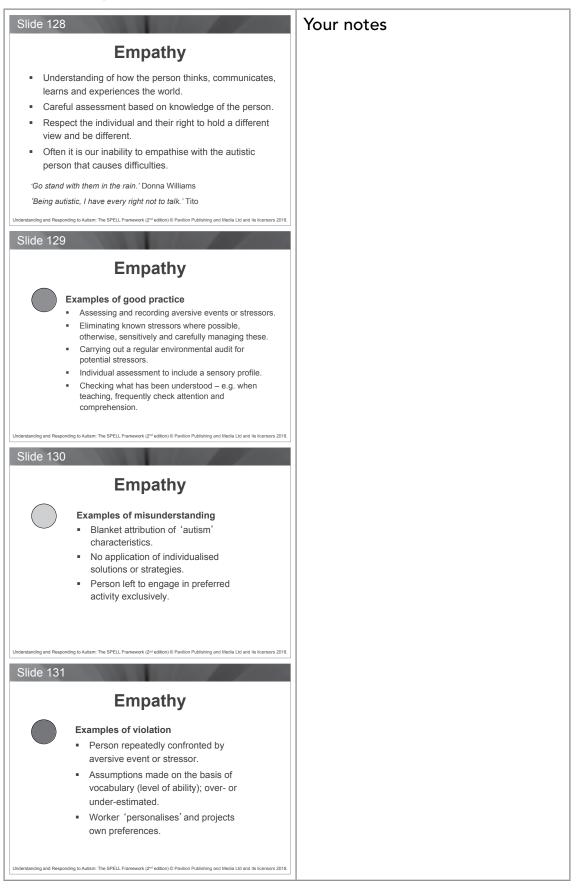
#### Achieving positive approaches

- Needs more than just an understanding of autism.
- Those providing support need to have the skills to facilitate people to be engaged in meaningful activities and interactions.
- Those providing support need to be willing to try new things with people and to learn from the experience.

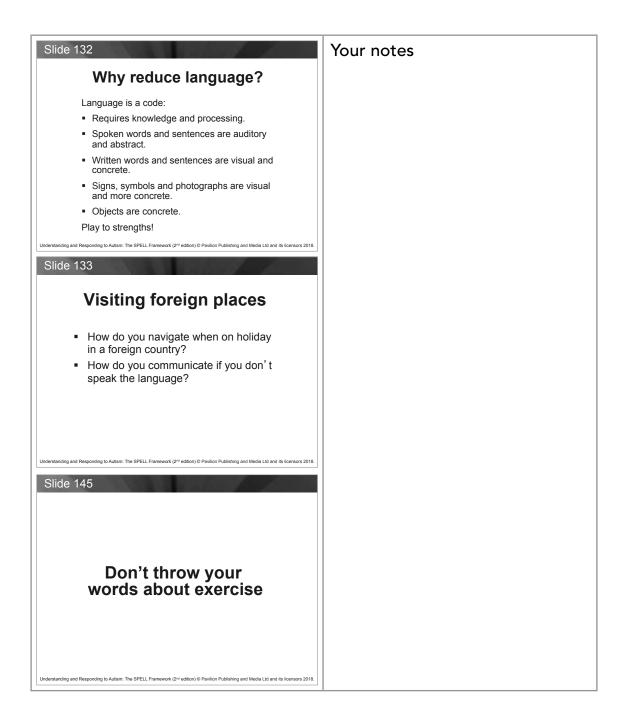
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Slide 127	Your reflections on
Scenario: Mary	Mary's scenario
Mary has always loved watching the show jumping on TV and loves looking at pictures of horses. Staff at the day centre start to explore the possibilities for Mary to try riding. First, however, they have to see whether she actually likes horses 'in the flesh'. They arrange for her to go to local riding stables, initially to look at the horses from a distance. Mary seems keen to get closer so they arrange for someone to bring a horse close to the other side of a fence from where Mary is standing. Staff show her how to touch and stroke the horse's nose. Over a three-week period they visit the horses twice a week. It is clear that Mary loves the horses and having watched others riding, she emerges one day from the stable tack room with a riding hat on. Mary had her first riding lesson that week and continues to enjoy it. She is now supported to groom some of the horses and even does some mucking out.	

## **Empathy**



Part 2: Supporting children and adults on the autism spectrum



Space to make notes for 'Don't throw your words about' activity

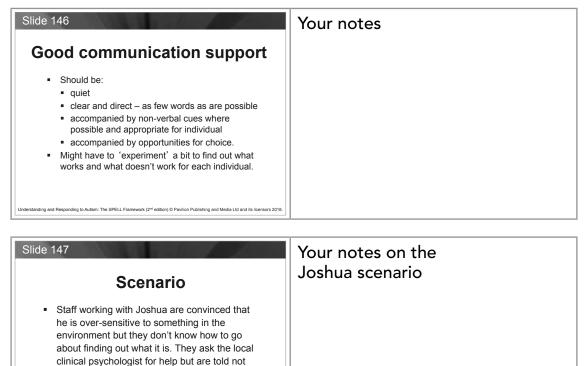
## **Good communication support**

to worry – it is just the autism that is making him difficult and they should just keep giving

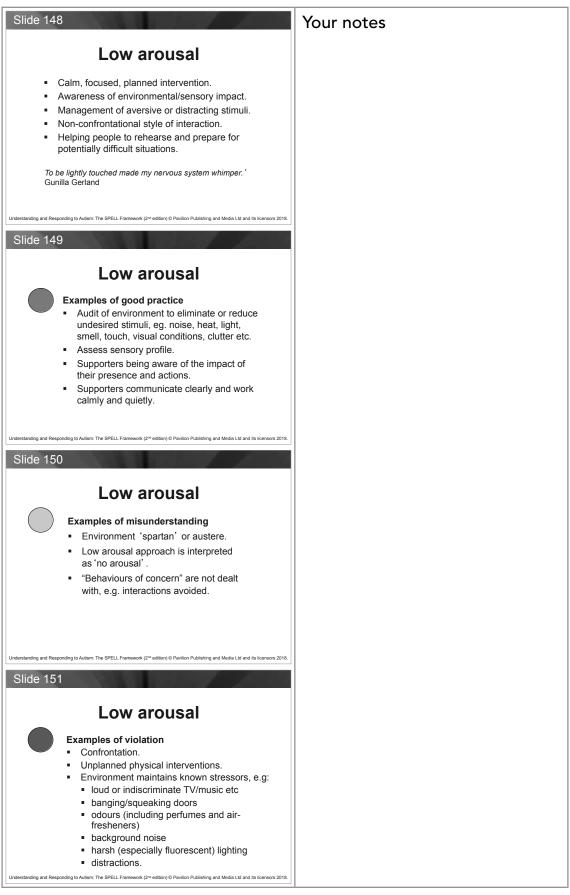
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#### Low arousal



Use this space for any notes you want to make about the photos and videos you see related to low arousal.

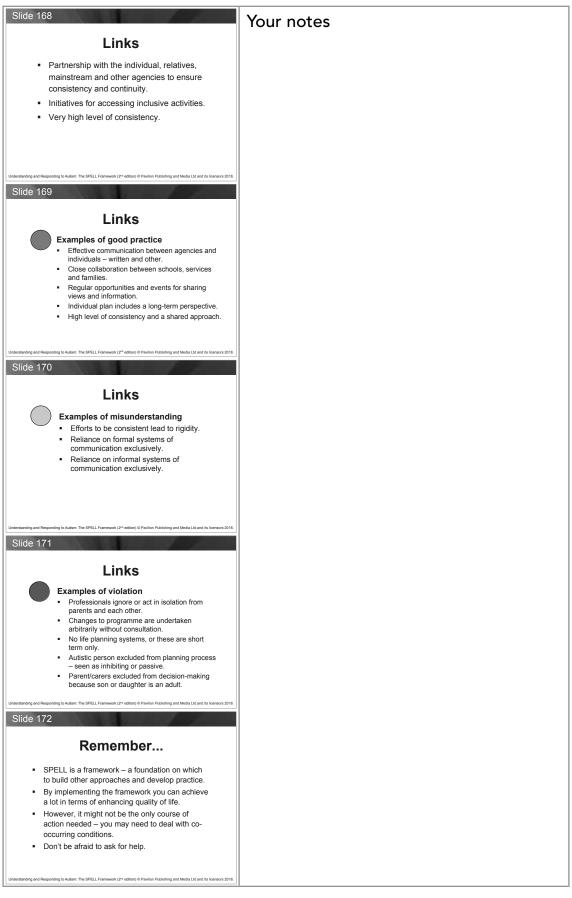
#### Slide 165

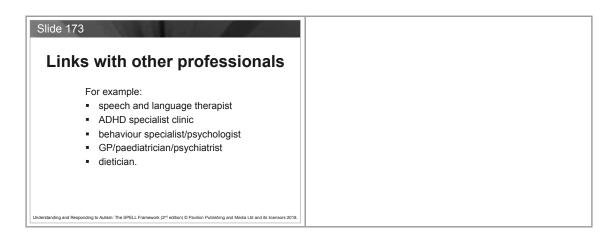
#### Scenario: School hall

When building the new hall at a school that had a unit providing support for 20 children on the autism spectrum, the head teacher insisted that it was essential to spend a little bit more money to use special bricks that had sound-proofing qualities to reduce the echo, lots of windows around the roof with blinds that could be used to adjust the level of light and a special floor that was quieter and 'softer' to run on.

## Your notes on the school hall scenario

### Links





Use this space for any notes you want to make about the examples you heard related to links.

e 174	Your notes on the Jamie scenario
Scenario: Jamie	
Jamie requires a special diet to help to keep her weight down and to help control some food intolerances. The diet has been agreed between her parents and the specialist dietician. A copy of the diet is sent to the respite home and to the day centre. Jamie usually takes a packed lunch to the day centre and during cookery sessions she is supported to make something nice from her list of allowed foods. At the respite centre staff do not follow the diet most of the time as it usually requires that they prepare separate food for Jamie. They say that it is unfair that other people in the home should be allowed to eat nice things and that Jamie can't. They say that a liance is an adult and should be allowed to choose what she eats even if that isn't always what is best for her health.	

## Summary

Slide 176	Your notes
Conclusion	
The SPELL framework:         • attempts to understand and respond to the unique needs of the individual with autism by applying holistic principles of what is understood to be best practice in autism         • is the foundation or essential companion for all other interventions or approaches         • creates an autism-friendly environment – if it is friendly to autistic people then it will generally be helpful to everyone.         Understanding and Responding to Autism: The SPELL Framework (2 <sup>rd</sup> edition) © Pavlion Publishing and Media Ltd and Is Icensore 2018.         Slide 177	
Conclusion	
<ul> <li>The SPELL framework is a socially valid mechanism for understanding and responding to autism:</li> <li>We all need structure in our lives.</li> <li>We all need to be seen positively, valued and allowed to pursue our interests and develop our strengths.</li> <li>We all need other people to have empathy for our point of view and us for theirs.</li> <li>We all need to reduce unhealthy stress and confrontation in our lives.</li> <li>We all need to be treated fairly and consistently.</li> </ul>	
Questions and recap	
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## **Further reading**

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The National Autistic Society: www.autism.org.uk

The Tizard Centre's website: www.kent.ac.uk/tizard (information on further study related to Autism)

Christopher Gillberg's webpage at University of Gothenburg (useful source of relevant research): https://www.gu.se/english/about\_the\_university/staff/?selectedTab=2&userId=xgilch&languageId=100001&siteNodeId=587114 &contentId=-1&originalRequestURI=/english/about\_the\_university/staff/&publicationsPerPage=500

Autism Society of America: www.autism-society.org

Temple Grandin's website: http://www.templegrandin.com

Website set up by Rudy Simone: Aspergirl Society – this page talks about female traits. http://aspergirlsociety.org/female-as-traits/

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