

CALL FOR PAPERS

COMMUNICATION: THE KEY TO SUCCESS

AUTISM CONFERENCE

FRIDAY 20th JUNE 2014

**EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY
ORMSKIRK, UK**

You are invited to submit abstracts for oral and/or poster presentations focusing on any innovations, developments or research in the area of working with young people with autism with particular emphasis on communication. Oral presentations will be allocated 25 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.

All queries regarding the call for papers should be directed to:

Dr Jeremy Brown,
Evidence-based Practice Research Centre
Faculty of Health and Social Care
Edge Hill University
St Helens Road
Ormskirk
Lancashire, L39 4QP

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E: brownjm@edgehill.ac.uk

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Abstracts are to be submitted via email to the Conference organising committee:

E: keytosuccess@edgehill.ac.uk

Deadline for abstracts is
Friday 28th March 2014

The abstract should not be more than 300 words in length (papers describing work in progress are eligible). For educational innovations and developments use the following headings: context & setting; why the innovation/development was introduced; what was done; evaluation of results. For research please use the following headings as appropriate: background; aims and objectives; methods; results; discussion; conclusion.

A panel of assessors will judge submitted summaries on the following criteria:

- Soundness of approach
- Clarity of description of the development, innovation or research project
- Accessibility, importance and relevance of content for a national and international audience

If a paper is accepted, presenting authors must register for the conference as a delegate.

Please note: amendments to abstracts cannot be made after the closing date.

We look forward to receiving your abstract.

THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



COMMUNICATION: THE KEY TO SUCCESS

AUTISM CONFERENCE

Friday 20th June 2014

**EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY
ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE, UK**

Keynote Speakers

Professor Temple Grandin
Saskia Baron
Dr Peter Vermeulen



Target Audience

- Teachers, Support Assistants
- Local Education Authorities
- Allied Health Professionals
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Educational Psychologists
- Parents/Carers or others who are meeting the needs of those with autism
- Academics
- Medical Practitioners

Background

If you are a relative or professional living or working with a young person who is diagnosed with autism you will know that the barriers within education, employment and social situations are significant. The impact that the complexities of autism have upon life situations is very real. Communication is a key factor in addressing the needs of such young people and by focusing on this issue, windows of opportunity are opened. This enables young people to progress in terms of furthering their education and employment options, by improving self-esteem and confidence or simply by offering an opportunity to feel included in society, to feel valued and understood.

COMMUNICATION: THE KEY TO SUCCESS

This conference is a collaborative venture between Belle Vue House Assessment Centre and Edge Hill University. Belle Vue House in Ormskirk is an independent assessment and development centre for children with communication difficulties. It is part of the Witherslack Group and provides independent professional assessments for children and young people of all ages through to adulthood. The multi-disciplinary team which comprises a Speech and Language Therapist, an Educational Psychologist, an Occupational Therapist and partnership with local Consultant Paediatricians is trained in the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Edge Hill University stands for academic and professional excellence. It is a welcoming, diverse community, accessible to everyone, providing exceptional support for students in high-quality learning environments.

Programme Outline

- 08.30 Coffee and registration
- Welcome and introduction
- Professor Temple Grandin**
A Personal Perspective [part 1]
- Coffee
- Saskia Baron**
Autism unpacked
- Parallel Sessions
- Lunch
- Dr Peter Vermeulen**
Understanding autism from within:
autistic thinking
- Professor Temple Grandin**
A Personal Perspective [part 2]
- Open Forum
- 17.00 Close



Keynote Presentations

Professor Temple Grandin

Temple Grandin is inarguably the most accomplished and well known adult with autism in the world. She hasn't let autism prevent her from living life to the full and has helped to redefine the perception of what is possible for people with autism. Temple has been featured in major television programmes and national publications and is a prominent author and speaker on the subject of autism. She presently works as an Associate Professor at Colorado State University. Her latest book is entitled *The Autistic Brain - thinking across the spectrum*.



Saskia Baron Sibling and TV Producer, *The Autism Puzzle*

Saskia is a documentary maker and journalist. She is also the younger sister of Timothy, an autistic man with learning difficulties, now in his 50s. Her father Michael Baron was one of the founding parents of the National Autistic Society in 1962 and continues to campaign for the rights and improved support of adults with autism. Saskia's films include *The Autism Puzzle*, made for the BBC in 2003; she is working (slowly) on other autism-related projects.



Dr Peter Vermeulen Lecturer and Consultant, Autisme Centraal, Ghent, Belgium

Peter Vermeulen, PhD has a Masters in Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences at the University of Leuven, Belgium (1985) and PhD in Social Sciences at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands (2002).

From 1987 until 1998 he worked for the Flemish Autism Association, first as home trainer for families with a child with autism, later as director of the home training centre and finally as trainer/lecturer. Since 1998 he has been working as autism consultant/lecturer at Autisme Centraal. He is co-director of the Centre for Concrete Communication, a European training and education centre for autism spectrum disorders. Peter is editor of *Autisme Centraal*, bi-monthly magazine of the Autisme Centraal and a member of the editorial board of the *Belgian-Dutch Journal of Special Education, Child Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology*. Several articles on autism and more than 15 books have been published - the latest of which are entitled *I am Special* and *Autism as Context Blindness*.

Cost

all prices are inclusive of VAT

Conference Fee ¹	£180.00
Conference Fee ²	£75.00

for people with ASD and parents of young people with ASD

Early Bird Discount

for bookings made by 31.03.14

Conference Fee ¹	£160.00
Conference Fee ²	£55.00

for people with ASD and parents of young people with ASD

How to register

Please book online at:

edgehill.ac.uk/health/autism

Confirmation of places, maps and a programme will be despatched one month before the conference date. If you have not received your confirmation letter one week before the conference date, please phone to check we have received your registration form on **+44 (0)1695 650738** or email: weatherp@edgehill.ac.uk

For general queries email:

keytosuccess@edgehill.ac.uk

Terms and conditions

Applications are accepted on the understanding that the applicants agree to the following booking terms and conditions.

Cancellations are not possible. A substitution may be made in the event of withdrawal.

Belle Vue House and Edge Hill University reserve the right to make changes to the published programme if necessary.