

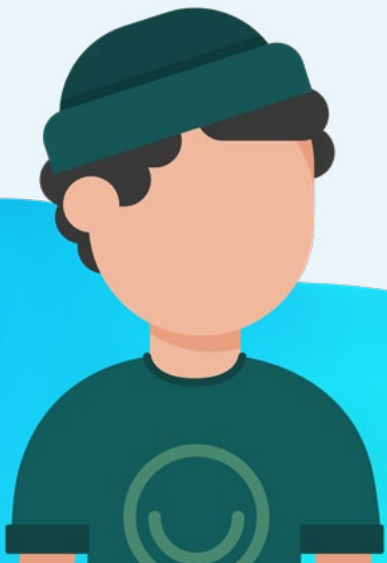
Neurodivergent affirming principles

April 2023

We aim to be a neurodivergent affirming service



While the definitions around neurodiversity change constantly, we've gathered together the core principles we follow when working with neurodivergent children or young people.



Neurodivergence is not a condition that needs to be 'fixed' or 'cured'. Neurodivergent people have 'differences' not 'difficulties' and they're not 'disordered'. We believe in individualisation to help the child/young person develop to their own full potential.

We understand that breakdowns in communication are caused by a mismatch in the communication style between neurotypical and neurodivergent people. To remove these barriers, there needs to be mutual respect and understanding of each other's interaction and communication style.



We don't prioritise speech over other forms of communication; where required, we'll offer alternative ways for a neurodivergent individual to communicate. We respect the right to choose how, when and with who they want to communicate.

We respect sensory differences and will make essential adaptations to the environment to allow a neurodivergent child/ young person to thrive.

We support neurodivergent ways of being while putting the needs and strengths of a neurodivergent child/young person at the centre. We do not support interventions which could increase masking e.g. training to improve social skills 'up to' the level of their neurotypical peers.

We assume neurodivergent people are competent and capable unless there's clear evidence to suggest otherwise.