

**Parents experiences on home-schooling a child with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) during the 2020/2021 COVID-19 lockdown in England**

**March 2021 – June 2021**

**Information sheet for families/carers participants**

My name is Lucy Colat-Parros and I am inviting you to take part in my research project (‘Parents experiences on home-schooling a child with Autism Spectrum Condition ASC during the 2020/2021 COVID-19 lockdown in England). I am a Doctoral student at UCL (University College London)’s Institute of Education, training to become an Educational Psychologist. I am also a qualified primary school teacher. I previously conducted research at IOE in 2016 for my Masters in Child Development, with the aim to improve outcomes for the autism community. UCL IOE is the leader globally for education and social science research.

As part of my Doctoral studies, I am conducting a small-scale research study on parental views and experiences of home-schooling a child with autism during the COVID-19 lockdown. We hope the results of this research will help raise awareness of potential challenges and support needed during pandemics and school closures and identify areas in which improvements could be made for children/young people and their families.

As the parent/carer of a child with autism, I very much hope you would like to take part in this research. This information sheet will try and answer any questions you might have about the project, but please don’t hesitate to contact me (lucy.wozniak.15@ucl.ac.uk) if there is anything else you would like to know. Additionally, if you require any further information about this study, please do not hesitate to contact my supervisor, Dr. Karen Majors, k.majors@ucl.ac.uk

**Who is carrying out the research?**

Lucy Colat-Parros

**Why are we doing this research?**

The ideology for this study came primarily from my personal interest of continuing research to support the Autism community and my professional experience as an educator for individuals with ASD prior to undertaking training on the DEdPsych. This study also is particularly relevant in the current context of COVID-19 around the globe and it’s implications.

## The aims of the study are as follows:

1. To explore the family/carer experience of home-schooling a child with ASD during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020
2. To understand more about the transition back into school from home-schooling

**Why am I being invited to take part?**

I would like to invite you to tell me more about your child’s experiences since the COVID-19 lockdowns began, how their schooling and development has evolved and how their experience has been with transitioning back into school. I am aiming to meet with between 10-15 parents/families/carers.

**What will happen if I choose to take part?**

Interviews will take about half an hour to one hour and all information you provide will be held in confidence and with remain completely anonymous. Please also note that participation is voluntary – even if you choose to take part, you still have the option to withdraw from the research up until the data is anonymised. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the project and data will be anonymised and kept according to UCL policy and under the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Please note, you can read and access more about the UCL general research participant privacy notice: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice>.

If you are interested to take part, a separate consent form will be sent to you.

Thank you very much,

**Lucy Colat-Parros**

Trainee Educational Psychologist / Current Doctoral Student at IOE

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