

E-NEWSLETTER

喜伴共融
FAMILY FUN DAY
同樂日

SUMMER ISSUE 2017

Family Fun Day

JC A-Connect continues to pay tribute to the United Nation's World Autism Awareness Day (April 2) in organising "Family Fun Day" at the University of Hong Kong. To raise public awareness of ASD and extend community care and empathy to persons with ASD, the event invited not only students with ASD and their families, but members of the public as well.



The activities of the Fun Day had 3 themes: "Family Game Zone", "Community Engagement Activity" and "Experiential Tour". Altogether, our 6 partner NGOs designed many game/activity booths. On top of Zentangle art

creation, experiential workshops, and life-size board games, another highlight of the event was the exhibition of art drawn by autistic students.



The event attracted over 1000 participants and the media as well. The series of interviews of Dr. Irene Ho, Project Director of the School Support Team of JC A-Connect, the Zentangle instructor and ASD participants were ultimately broadcast in a TV programme. They respectively shared their views on autistic people and how the community can meet their needs, the usefulness of Zentangle to people with ASD, as well as their feelings and perspectives.

"The most I've gained from this event is a deeper understanding of ASD...After knowing more, I've become more patient to autistic children."

---Participant

Cable TV "Health and Fitness" April 30, 2017

[Click here for the programme recap in Chinese](#) (start from 39:40)



School Support

The school support component aims to strengthen targeted support for students with ASD in mainstream schools of Hong Kong. Currently, there are 405 participating schools, including 255 primary schools and 150 secondary schools. Other than coaching programme for students with ASD, support programmes for teachers, parents and peers have also been conducted.

Activities Organised by HKU

Teacher Training Workshop: Emotions

Over 200 school staffs attended the workshop on introducing and analysing different emotions, explaining emotional problems of persons with ASD, learning appropriate measures and actions when handling emotional breakdowns of students with ASD, etc.

"I've acquired more ways of assisting students to manage their emotions. They are useful in practice, and not just in theory."

---Attending teacher



Teacher Training Workshop: Hidden Social Curriculum

The workshop attracted 230 school staffs and focused on how to assist students with ASD in recognising and following social rules. Examples were used to demonstrate both appropriate and inappropriate responses and tactics employed by teachers.

"I learned how to handle the situation when students with ASD face issues of hidden social rules."

---Attending teacher



Talk to Secondary Students

One of the education psychologists of the school support team gave a talk on ASD to 150 secondary students.

Professional Training Seminar 2016

The seminar was delivered by both HKU and the partner NGOs. The School Team showcased the different aspects of JC A-Connect while the NGOs shared frontline experience of serving students with ASD.



Activities Organised by Partner NGOs---New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association



Teacher training workshop



Students coaching programme



Material for social competence coaching programme



Peers activity --- integration of social competence practice and peer relationship building

Family Support

A-POWER Family Support Framework

In response to societal needs, the Family Team developed the "A-POWER" family support framework as a guide-map for service after undergoing a systematic literature review, evaluation of existing services and interviews with parents and stakeholders. The framework aims to enhance parenting skills and alert parents of the importance of their own health. It also asserts that quality support to families should be provided at child, personal, family and community levels.

The framework can also help by reviewing existing services. Besides recognising the achievements of those services, it can more importantly examine whether there is any duplication or inadequacy of service and serve as a the framework for well-planned service development in future. With the parent programme and professional training included, the framework as a whole has won wide endorsement from the Hong Kong Jockey Club, our 6 NGO collaborators, and the Social Welfare Department of the HKSAR Government. The pilot programme of A-POWER has received positive feedback as well.

Activities Organised by Partner NGOs---Caritas Hong Kong



Over 200 participants attended the Sharing Forum of Cognitive Behavioural.

Outdoor "Rainbow Parachute" enjoyed by children and parents alike!

Caregivers can rejuvenate through dancing.

Yoga classes are popular among parents.

Public Education

Apart from Family Fun Day, JC A-Connect carried out various knowledge transfer activities that conveyed the message of extending care to people with ASD, which were highlighted by the media.

Activity

Hong Kong ASD Conference 2016 [Read More](#)



"I enjoyed reading the poster exhibition which portrayed a fairly good picture of the service scopes and content of supporting students with ASD/SEN in HK."

---Participant

Hong Kong ASD Conference 2017 [Read More](#)



"I appreciate the conference as a good start to address the needs of ASD persons and their families in the society."

---Participant



Press Conference on A Comprehensive Study on Support Needs of Students with ASD in Mainstream School

[Read More](#)

Media Coverage

CRHK 政好星期天

Date: August 14, 2016

[Read More](#)



RTHK Doctor and You 2016: Autism

Date: October 17, 2016

[Read More](#)



Cable TV Health and Fitness: You 2016: Autism

Date: April 30, 2017

[Read More](#)



A·Story

Chapter 2 Walk with You: The Story of Mr. Escalator

[Click here for the video](#)



August 18, 2017 (Friday)

Professional Training Seminar 2017

Venue: University of Hong Kong

Professionals of the collaborative NGOs (SAHK, Salvation Army & Tung Wah Group of Hospitals) will share their frontline service experience.

July 5-6, 2018 (Thursday-Friday)

Hong Kong ASD Conference 2018

Venue: University of Hong Kong

[Events organised by Partner NGOs](#)

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