



Imagining Autism AUTISTIC COMMUNITY CAFES

Autistic Community Cafés are events in arts centres, schools and community venues that offer family friendly social spaces for support, information sharing and networking. They have been developed and trialled by the Imagining Autism team in a range of venues, working in consultation with the autistic community in the design and delivery.

Imagining Autism offers two formats with slightly different audiences

1. Whole day event (generally at a weekend or holiday period). This is family oriented and is designed with the autistic community as its focus.
2. Twilight event after work for multi-agency groups; teachers, parents, carers, health workers.

COST: as an indication, we offer a basic Twilight event that includes a workshop and a film from around £500 plus travel and catering. Please enquire at imaginingautism@kent.ac.uk

Community Café Menu

(venues choose what they want dependent on audience)

Workshops (we have a range of options with resources to run them); all run for 1 hour

1. Perceiving Differently: focuses on autistic experience and how to engage imaginatively with autistic perception. Very popular with mixed groups, especially teachers. includes aspects of sensing environments & interaction (see below).
2. Puppets & Play: practical strategies for using puppets as creative and communication tools with autistic children.
3. Sensing Environments: working with sensory stimuli to explore and engage with the physical and social world and as resources for creative learning.
4. Inter/Act: techniques for eliciting attention and engagement drawing upon active support and intensive interaction practices. Includes imitation, exaggeration, 'sabotage' techniques, and insights into autism and humour.
5. Autistic creative space: making a play pod at school or at home

Film screenings

The project has produced two 30-minute films, both of which can be featured in the café with the option of a panel discussion afterwards.

1. Film screenings: Imagining Autism: Now I see the World (click [here](#) for trailer).
2. Playing A/Part: investigating autistic women's experiences through participatory performance (drama and media) (click [here](#) for trailer).

Roundtables

We currently have two formats:

1. Information sharing (advocates alongside reps from education, lawyers, social care, parents)
2. Autistic experiences: stories across the spectrum from autistic people, siblings, parents, family members etc.

Performances

We have a list of performances as a platform for autistic artists, typically

[The Duck](#) by Autact

One women show about late diagnosis.

[Kate Fox](#)

The Adventures of Super Autie Girl, by live artist, [Annette Foster](#), Kent PhD researcher and autism advocate.

Creative activities

Appliques; poetry via local artists, authors etc, puppet making, book readings by self-advocates.