

# Open Research Online

---

The Open University's repository of research publications and other research outputs

## How to Encourage Social Communication in Children with Autism through Tablet Use: A Guide for Teachers and Parents

### Other

How to cite:

Mangafa, Chrysoula (2017). How to Encourage Social Communication in Children with Autism through Tablet Use: A Guide for Teachers and Parents. Future Learn.

For guidance on citations see [FAQs](#).

© [not recorded]

Version: Version of Record

Link(s) to article on publisher's website:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/supporting-autism>

---

Copyright and Moral Rights for the articles on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. For more information on Open Research Online's data [policy](#) on reuse of materials please consult the policies page.

---

[oro.open.ac.uk](https://oro.open.ac.uk)

## How to Encourage Social Communication in Children with Autism through Tablet Use A Guide for Teachers and Parents



### Who:

The guide is both for experienced and non-experienced users of tablet technology. The recommendations included in this guide can be adapted for all children's abilities and needs, mainly for primary school aged children.

### When:

The guide can be advised when using the tablet to teach the curriculum, search for apps or when you're just having fun with your child playing on an app together.

### Why:

Children with autism often share a love for technology and touchscreen devices. Tablets, such as iPads, are now used in more than 70% of schools in England and the use of Internet is part of almost 54% of households. So, why not make the most of this and use the mobile tablet as a motivational tool to teach important skills, such as social communication? This guide offers advice to teachers and parents of children with autism on how to use the tablets interactively with the children to practice turn taking skills, sharing, understanding of feelings, verbal and non-verbal communication.

### What:

The guidelines are part of my PhD project in Coventry University about the use of tablets to develop social communication skills in children with autism. Teachers, parents, children, professionals and researchers contributed to the creation of the guidelines. The guidelines address the participants' experiences and concerns as well as a wide range of evidence informed teaching strategies.

### Where:

Don't hesitate to share it with colleagues and parents!

For more information about the project and any inquiries, please contact me [magafa.chrysoula@gmail.com](mailto:magafa.chrysoula@gmail.com)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChrissyMangafa>

Linked in: <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/chrysoula-mangafa-42673697>