

Staff skills required for working with pupils with autism:

Views from professionals working in education

(Analysed and compiled by Damian Milton and Katerina Giannadou)

Note on the sample:

Professionals working in the field of autism completed a brief form to give information on what they considered to be key skills and qualities in working with pupils with autism. These responses were used in the development of the Standards. A total of 95 professionals completed the survey. Their replies are given below.

Skills and qualities required in staff working with pupils with autism

- Clear communication skills
- Curiosity about how autistic people think and learn
- Emotional literacy
- Flexibility
- Knowledge of autism
- Knowledge of the child
- Non-judgemental approach
- Patience
- Positive outlook
- Understanding
- Sense of humour
- Observational and problem-solving approach
- Ability to remain calm
- Understanding sensory needs
- Consistency of approach
- Developing the pupil's strengths
- Empathy
- Good listening skills
- Desire to work with the pupil
- Knowledge and use of sign language

- Enthusiasm
- Holistic approach
- Ability to reflect on language use
- Resilience
- Understanding 'literal thinking'
- Not normalising
- Collaborating with parents and peers
- Adaptability
- Differentiation
- Patience
- Ability to be clear or explain tasks in different ways
- Good listening Skills
- Ability to work with pupils on areas of special interest
- Calm manner
- Be in good health
- To give clear instructions
- Be consistent
- Be creative and fun
- Every day is a new start