



**A collaboration toolbox to build a school for all”  
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## Families Beyond School

At Woodlands ASD Resource Base, we provide a lot of family support. As many of the children start with us at the age of 3 or 4, it is likely that they have just been diagnosed. This can be a difficult and confusing time for families. We are also in the situation where many of our families have English as a second language.

We provide training opportunities and workshops to all parents with translators for those who find English difficult to understand. We will invite different professionals that work with the children to come in and do sessions. This may include people such as the Speech and Language Therapist or the Occupational Therapist, along with many others.

We incorporate such things as daily communication books for all our students as well to ensure that parents are informed about what is happening at school. Many of our children have very limited speech abilities so it really helps the parents to have a better idea of how their child's day has gone. As Head of the Resource Base, I offer advice and support to any of my parents that feel as though they don't know where to go. I can often lead them in the right direction or help them myself. Parents seem to find this support for helpful and are happy that they have somewhere to go. Autism is an extremely complex disorder and often leaves parents with many questions and everyday challenges.

**Keywords: Autism, Family Support**