

Autism & Technology: gathering parent wisdom on using technology with

My name is Sue Fletcher-Watson, and I am a research psychologist based at Edinburgh University, UK, with a particular interest in the study of autism spectrum disorders and using technology with this group. I am running this online survey to investigate how families use technology to support children with autism at home. Before you proceed, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Contact me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information: sue.fletcher-watson@ed.ac.uk

This survey will gather information from families who have a child with autism, and who already use technology (e.g. computer games, YouTube, apps) to help entertain, educate and otherwise support their child. The goal is to combine the wisdom of these parents to help provide advice to other parents who are thinking about using technology for the first time, or trying something new.

The questions on the next few pages will ask you about

- You – your gender, where you live (not full address), your age, your education and work background
- Your child with autism – their gender, their age, their diagnosis, and a few general questions about their ability level (e.g. language used etc.)
- Your technology – what devices do you own (e.g. desktop PC, iPad, Nintendo DS) and what games, apps and software do you have.
- Using technology at home – for example: what games and programs does your child like? How did you choose these particular games instead of others? How much do they play? How do you manage their 'screen time'?

We will not ask for any identifying information – e.g. your name, your full address.

Using the survey data, I will be writing a document for parents who are new to using technology with their child, which aims to help them make good choices when selecting hardware, software and managing technology at home. If you want, at the end of the survey, you can fill in your email address to receive a copy of this document when it is completed.

Ethics approval has been given by the University of Edinburgh. Copies of their comments are available if you wish to see them - just email me at sue.fletcher-watson@ed.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this Information. If you are happy to proceed please move to the next page and complete the consent form

***1. If you are happy to complete this survey, please complete the consent form by responding to each item:**

- I have read and understood the survey information on the previous page
- I understand that all data collected from this survey will be anonymously coded and stored confidentially and securely
- I am willing to take part in this research survey

About You, The Parent

Information about the person responding to the survey, who should be a parent or guardian of a child with autism (or suspected autism).

2. Please tell us your gender

- Male
- Female
- Would rather not categorise myself

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*3. Please let us know where you live.

City/Town:

State/Province:

ZIP/Postal Code:

Country:

4. Please let us know your date of birth

Date of birth DD MM YYYY

/ /

5. How old were you when you left full time education?

6. What is your highest level qualification?

- High school qualification
- Vocational qualification
- Undergraduate degree
- Postgraduate degree
- Professional training

Other (please specify)

7. Please tell us about your current or most recent employment

- professional: e.g. doctor, lawyer, teacher, manager
- non-manual skilled: e.g. typist, police officer, fireman
- manual skilled: e.g. toolmaker, foreman, ambulance man
- partly skilled: e.g. bus conductor, postman
- unskilled: cleaners, porters, messengers
- unemployed for the majority of adult life
- homemaker
- sheltered employment
- still in full time education

Other (please specify)

About Your Child with Autism

This section will ask for a bit more information about your child with autism (diagnosed or suspected). If you have more than one child with autism, please answer all the following questions in reference to whichever of your children uses technology most heavily.

8. What is your child's gender?

- Male
- Female
- Would rather not categorise them

9. What is your child's date of birth?

Date of birth DD MM YYYY
 / /

10. Does your child have an autism diagnosis?

- Yes, autism
- Yes, Asperger's syndrome
- Yes, PDD-NOS (pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified)
- Yes, Social Communication Disorder
- No, awaiting diagnosis
- No, autism spectrum disorder suspected

Other (please specify)

11. Does your child have additional support needs?

For example, a learning disability, or additional diagnosis as well as autism

- Yes
- No

If so, please describe what these are

12. Can your child read?

- Yes, fluently
- Just learning
- No

13. What is your child's spoken language level?

You can tick more than one option

- Babbling
- Word approximations (e.g. Ma for Mummy)
- Single words (e.g. biscuit)
- Two words together (e.g. want biscuit)
- Short phrases (e.g. I want a biscuit)
- Multi-part sentences (e.g. When we get home, can I have a biscuit?)
- Wh-questions (e.g. Why don't we have any biscuits?)
- Complex grammar (e.g. I don't think I'm going to like this biscuit)
- Using pronouns appropriately (e.g. he, she, you, me, I)
- Fluent, adult-like speech

Please let us know anything else about your child's language that you think is relevant

14. Which computer interfaces can your child use without help?

- Large touchscreen
- Small touchscreen (e.g. phone)
- Mouse
- Keyboard
- Touchpad
- Button / joystick controls (e.g. Playstation)
- Wii remote
- Kinect / whole body controls

Other (please specify)

15. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your child?

About Your Technology

The following sections will ask you for some information about the hardware and software you use regularly with your child at home. We'll ask you whether your child uses various items of technology including iPads, other tablets,

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touchscreen phones, desktop or laptop computers and gamers such as a Wii or Playstation. In each case, if you have regular access to that item (it doesn't matter whether you actually own it yourself - e.g. a laptop which belongs to your work) we'll then ask for some more detail about what your child does with that piece of hardware. At the end, there'll be an opportunity to tell us about any technology you use that we haven't already asked about.

16. Does your child have regular access to an iPad at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using the iPad

17. On average, how much time does your child spend on the iPad each day?

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

18. What are your child's favourite things to do on the iPad?

Please tick all that apply

- Play games / apps
- Watch downloaded films
- Watch downloaded TV
- Watch YouTube (or other online video site)
- Email / message
- Skype
- Listen to music
- Browse the web
- Communicate using a AAC app
- Take photos or films, or look at stored photos and home video
- Use social media (e.g. twitter, facebook)
- Read / look at books or newspapers
- Admin (e.g. calender)
- Shopping

Other (please specify)

19. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

20. Does your child have regular access to a different tablet device (e.g. Samsung Galaxy, Kindle Fire) at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using your tablet

21. Please specify the make of tablet you use.

22. On average, how much time does your child spend on the tablet each day?

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

23. What are your child's favourite things to do on the tablet?

Please tick all that apply

- Play games / apps
- Watch downloaded films
- Watch downloaded TV
- Watch YouTube (or other online video site)
- Email / message
- Skype
- Listen to music
- Browse the web
- Communicate using a AAC app
- Take photos or films, or look at stored photos and home video
- Use social media (e.g. twitter, facebook)
- Read / look at books or newspapers
- Admin (e.g. calender)
- Shopping

Other (please specify)

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24. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

25. Does your child have regular access to an iPhone or iPod Touch at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using the iPhone or iPod

26. On average, how much time does your child spend on the iPhone and iPod each day?

If you have an iPhone and iPod, please just combine the time into one total estimate.

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

27. What are your child's favourite things to do on the iPhone and iPod?

Please tick all that apply

- Play games / apps
- Watch downloaded films
- Watch downloaded TV
- Watch YouTube (or other online video site)
- Email / message
- Skype / call people
- Listen to music
- Browse the web
- Communicate using a AAC app
- Take photos or films, or look at stored photos and home video
- Use social media (e.g. twitter, facebook)
- Read / look at books or newspapers
- Admin (e.g. calender)
- Shopping

Other (please specify)

28. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

29. Does your child have regular access to another brand of touchscreen phone at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using the touchscreen phone

30. Please specify the make of phone you use.

31. On average, how much time does your child spend using the phone each day?

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

32. What are your child's favourite things to do on the phone?

Please tick all that apply

- Play games / apps
- Watch downloaded films
- Watch downloaded TV
- Watch YouTube (or other online video site)
- Email / message
- Skype / call people
- Listen to music
- Browse the web
- Communicate using a AAC app
- Take photos or films, or look at stored photos and home video
- Use social media (e.g. twitter, facebook)
- Read / look at books or newspapers
- Admin (e.g. calender)
- Shopping

Other (please specify)

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33. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

34. Does your child have regular access to a Blackberry at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using the Blackberry

35. On average, how much time does your child spend on the Blackberry each day?

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

36. What are your child's favourite things to do on the Blackberry?

Please tick all that apply

- Play games / apps
- Watch downloaded films
- Watch downloaded TV
- Watch YouTube (or other online video site)
- Email / message
- Call people
- Listen to music
- Browse the web
- Communicate using a AAC app
- Take photos or films, or look at stored photos and home video
- Use social media (e.g. twitter, facebook)
- Read / look at books or newspapers
- Admin (e.g. calender)
- Shopping

Other (please specify)

37. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

38. Does your child have regular access to a PC (not Mac) desktop or laptop at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using a PC desktop or laptop

**39. On average, how much time does your child spend on the PC computer each day?
If you have a desktop and a laptop, please combine the time into one total estimate.**

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

**40. What are your child's favourite things to do on the computer?
Please tick all that apply**

- Play games / apps
- Watch downloaded films
- Watch downloaded TV
- Watch YouTube (or other online video site)
- Email / message
- Skype
- Listen to music
- Browse the web
- Communicate using a AAC app
- Take photos or films, or look at stored photos and home video
- Use social media (e.g. twitter, facebook)
- Read / look at books or newspapers
- Admin (e.g. calender)
- Shopping

Other (please specify)

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41. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

42. Does your child have regular access to a Mac desktop or laptop at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using a Mac desktop or laptop

43. On average, how much time does your child spend on the Mac computer each day? If you have a desktop and a laptop please combine the times into one total estimate.

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

44. What are your child's favourite things to do on the Mac?

Please tick all that apply

- Play games / apps
- Watch downloaded films
- Watch downloaded TV
- Watch YouTube (or other online video site)
- Email / message
- Skype
- Listen to music
- Browse the web
- Communicate using a AAC app
- Take photos or films, or look at stored photos and home video
- Use social media (e.g. twitter, facebook)
- Read / look at books or newspapers
- Admin (e.g. calender)
- Shopping

Other (please specify)

45. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

46. Does your child have regular access to a Wii at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using the Wii

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47. On average, how much time does your child spend on the Wii each day?

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

48. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

49. Does your child have regular access to a Nintendo DS at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using the Nintendo DS

50. On average, how much time does your child spend on the Nintendo DS each day?

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

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51. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

52. Does your child have regular access to a Playstation at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using the Playstation

53. On average, how much time does your child spend on the Playstation each day?

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

54. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

55. Does your child have regular access to an XBox at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using the XBox

56. On average, how much time does your child spend on the XBox each day?

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

57. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

58. Does your child have regular access to a Kinect at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about using the Kinect

59. On average, how much time does your child spend in Kinect activities each day?

- Has access but doesn't use much
- 0-20 mins
- 20-40mins
- 40-60mins
- 1hr-2hrs
- 2hrs-4hrs
- 4hrs+

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60. Please list the top five apps or functions that your child uses most often and/or enjoys the most

One	<input type="text"/>
Two	<input type="text"/>
Three	<input type="text"/>
Four	<input type="text"/>
Five	<input type="text"/>

61. Does your child have regular access to a dedicated AAC device (e.g. Dynavox, Liberator) at home?

- Yes
- No

Information about your AAC device

62. Please let us know the make of device you use.

63. How reliant is your child on this device to communicate?

- The device is the only form of communication used
- The device is the main form of communication, but also uses speech / gesture / signs
- The device is a supplementary form of communication but not the main one.
- The device is not used very much.

Other (please specify)

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64. If your child regularly uses any other other forms of technology not covered in the previous questions please let us know a bit more here.

Name of device	<input type="text"/>
Type of interface (e.g. touchscreen, mouse, keyboard)	<input type="text"/>
How much time does your child use this device per day?	<input type="text"/>
What does your child use this device for?	<input type="text"/>

Managing technology use at home

Here we'd like to get some more information about how you use technology at home. These are mostly open questions - we would love to hear from you in detail here, but if you are in a rush you can skip anything that isn't relevant to you.

65. How do you feel about your child's use of technology?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I think my child has benefitted from using technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I worry about how much time my child spends using technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am pleased with the range of technologies my child can access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have had problems with my child being obsessed with technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think my child is skilled at using technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technology prevents my child from interacting with other people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technology has made my home life easier	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would get more technology for my child if I could afford it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I find it hard to choose the right games or activities for my child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think it is important to supervise my child while (s)he plays with technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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66. How did you choose the hardware your child uses?

e.g. best for autism, recommended by a friend, affordable, etc.

67. How do you choose the software (e.g. apps, games) your child uses?

e.g. Friends' recommendations, online reviews, trial and error, my child chooses

Final page - nearly there!

68. Have you had to develop ways to manage your child's screentime?

e.g. limited to certain times of day, maximum per day, just as a reward, I don't restrict him/her

69. Please tell us any other major positives or negatives you have encountered while using technology with your child.

70. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Thank You!

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your responses will be combined with those of other parents from all over the world to help us provide guidance to families who are new to using technology to support their child with autism.

If you have any questions you can contact me at: sue.fletcher-watson@ed.ac.uk

71. If you would like to receive a copy of the final report when the research project is completed you can enter your email address below. This will not be used for any other purpose.