**A useful list of supports for children and families with ASD**

**Peer support - Qld**
**Carers and Families**

·     [My Time](https://www.mytime.net.au/) is a support program for parents of children with a disability. They run in different locations and children are supervised while parents meet.

·     [Play Connect](https://www.playconnect.com.au/) is a network of autism-specific play groups for pre-school children. They provide opportunities for parents to connect.

·     Gold Coast Parent Support Group for carers of autistic children and those with ASD. Free coffee & chat groups held in Burleigh Heads QLD. Email Kelly at aspergersgc@outlook.com

·     [Mackay Autism Support Group](https://www.facebook.com/autismmackay/?hc_ref=ARS4zkosI7SJemBoglCnw_Sga7C0zlJY0WIYRidLziI6w2-EDj7VGohpE15ui8xlpeo&fref=nf&__tn__=kC-R) run regular catch ups.

·     Queensland Asperger Partner’s Support Group, Albion Brisbane. Contact Helen Boardman on 0418 761 652 or email gaps.group@gmail.com

·     [Moreton Bay Region ASD Support Groups (Autism Spectrum Disorders)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/242572062494487/) is a Facebook support group for families and autistic adults.

·     [NDIS QLD Queensland Discussion Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/592577331324110/) is a Facebook group for NDIS participants, their families and carers.

·     [Autism Queensland](https://autismqld.com.au/resources/family-support-social-groups/) provide a register of peer support groups for autistic people, carers and families throughout Queensland.

·     [Kids on the Spectrum](https://www.kidsonthespectrum.com.au/) – Australian autism directory with numerous social opportunities for autistic kids.

·     [Empower Autism](https://empowerautism.org.au/parent-support-groups/) offer parent peer support groups around Brisbane.

**Teenagers**

·     [The Gaming Den](https://www.facebook.com/TheGamingDenIpswich/) is an Ipswich-based Facebook group for gaming and socialising,  designed with autistic people in mind

·     [Autism Queensland](https://autismqld.com.au/services/school-aged/group-programs/) offers a number of interest based groups for teens to connect

·     [Steps Autism Treehouse](https://www.stepsautismtreehouse.org.au/stepping-into-bundaberg-sports-sibs) is for families of autistic children from 12-18 years who want to participate in sport (free)

·     [The A List Hub](https://alisthub.com.au/) - a platform to help young autistic people (from as young as 7) and their families find social and group activities all across Australia.

**Paid groups**

·     [Autism Adventures](https://www.autismadventures.com.au/social-groups/) run social groups for young people from 9 years old+ in South East Queensland and Sydney’s North Shore.

·     [Empower Autism](https://empowerautism.org.au/peer-support/) runs some peer support groups for youth, young adults and adults in Brisbane.

**Peer groups - online**

·     The I CAN Network offer an [Online Group Mentoring](https://icannetwork.online/online/) program for young people.

·     [The Lab](https://thelab.org.au/), a technology club for autistic kids and teenagers. There are groups across Australia and held online.

·     [Minds at Play](https://mindsatplay.com.au/#services) uses ‘Minecraft’ and ‘Dungeons & Dragons’ games to foster communication and social interactions for young people online.

·     [Autcraft](https://www.autcraft.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is a Minecraft server specifically for autistic children & adolescents

* [Yellowcraft](https://www.yellowladybugs.com.au/Event) is a program run by the Yellow Ladybugs and Next Level Collaboration. Autistic girls and gender non-conforming children aged from 5-16 can connect by participating in private Minecraft servers.

·     [Au To Know](https://autoknowmentoring.com.au/) is a 1:1 mentoring services for those who want to build their digital technology skills in a fun way while working towards their NDIS goals.

* [Kaboose](https://www.kaboose.app/) is the new social media app offering a safe and engaging online platform for Young Autistic People to connect with their peers through shared special interests. (Groups are arranged by age as well. Goes up to age 24)

**Autism positive resources for children and teenagers**

* [Pablo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2017/pablo) - a new animated children’s series about an autistic child from the BBC, created by autistic writers and consultants. It is available on YouTube, [Pablo – Official](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPIYB5hDFyhj9psFYZ35g4g).
* [My Autism and Me](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejpWWP1HNGQ) - a short film about autism by an autistic girl, Rosie.
* [What It’s Like](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/what-it-s-like/series/3/video/CK2004V001S00) - scroll down to the *Living on the autism spectrum* episode.
* [I CAN Network](https://www.facebook.com/theicannetwork/) - Facebook page
* [10 Tips for Autistic Teenagers](https://autisticnotweird.com/growing-up-autistic-advice-for-teenagers-with-asperger-syndrome-or-mild-autism/) - Autistic Not Weird
* Altogether Autism (NZ) [Teenager’s page](https://www.altogetherautism.org.nz/life-stages/teenagers/)

**Autism positive groups and resources**

* [12 Fast Facts About Autism](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaRdPYvWt48), by Autism Explained. A comprehensive explanation of Autism in a short, 4½ minute video.
* [Reframing Autism](https://www.reframingautism.com.au/resources/) has many videos of Autistic people talking about what it’s like to be Autistic.
* [Why everything you know about autism is wrong](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1AUdaH-EPM), TED talk by Jac den Houting, autistic psychologist.
* [Ask An Autistic](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAoYMFsyj_k1ApNj_QUkNgKC1R5F9bVHs) - list of episodes
* [Understanding the Spectrum](https://the-art-of-autism.com/understanding-the-spectrum-a-comic-strip-explanation/) – a comic strip by Rebecca Burgess
* [Autonomy and independence: an interview with Jamie and Lion](https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/professional-practice/jamie-lion), interview at National Autistic Society Professional Conference, 2019, published by National Autistic Society
* [Perspective Shift - Prue Stevenson](https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1633420355609/perspective-shift-prue) - ?Prue is an autistic artist from Melbourne
* [You Can’t Ask That - Autism Spectrum](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/you-can-t-ask-that), ABC iView
* [Last Train to Boree Creek](https://www.abc.net.au/austory/last-train-to-boree-creek./11438906) - Australian Story episode about Tim Fischer, Deputy Prime Minister, 1996-1999
* [Autistic Not Weird](https://www.facebook.com/autisticnotweird/?__tn__=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARBC2zWtmBDO3CPK8bd09ArbWQCZmDln9bx4Hk4aiNv7cMpZTb0Kj5XFAYkas0z4IRjryiCFA7hjEIH_)
* [Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)](https://autisticadvocacy.org/)
* [National Autistic Society](https://www.autism.org.uk/about.aspx) (UK) has a comprehensive range of information about autism
* [Spectrum News](https://www.spectrumnews.org/) - many interesting articles about autism.

I hope that these resources are helpful. If you require further assistance feel free to contact us again. reception@leadingsteps.com.au