



The Longitudinal study of Australian Students with Autism (LASA)

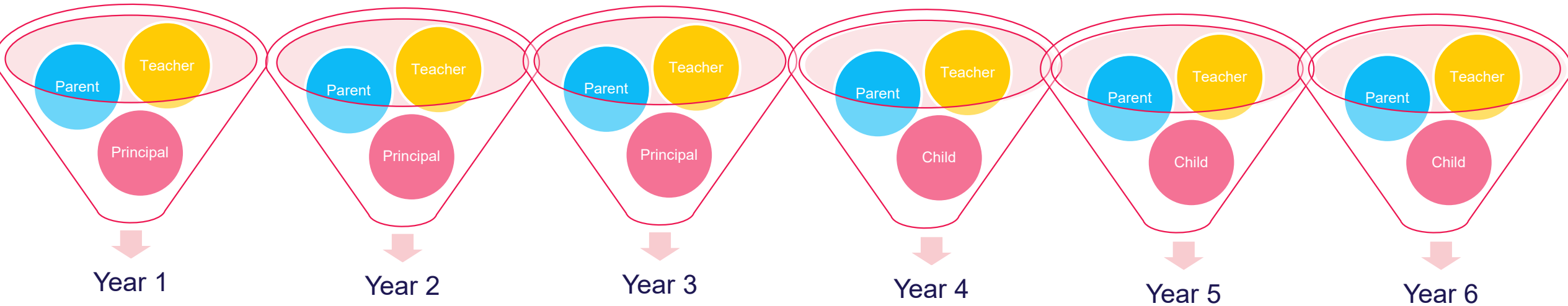
A final thank you for your input into this unique study exploring academic achievement and participation in children on the autism spectrum over time



Associate Professor Dawn Adams
Autism Centre of Excellence



We did it!



- One of the worlds largest and longest studies following children on the spectrum over time
- What makes the LASA special is having data from home and school as well as from some of the children/teenagers themselves
- Thank you for helping us to make this happen, even mid pandemic!

Results from the LASA is producing new scientific knowledge

- 23 research publications
- Articles published from the LASA data have been downloaded by researchers, clinicians and others more than 2,000 times in total
- Articles are being shared with family members and professionals via email and social media
- Articles receiving more attention on social media than 95% of research work
- Interested in the articles? Robyn will be sending you a link to a website which has summaries and articles which you can read at your leisure!

Key findings that may interest families

Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders 72 (2020) 101512



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rasd



The self-identified positive attributes and favourite activities of children on the autism spectrum

Megan Clark*, Dawn Adams

Autism Centre of Excellence, Griffith Institute for Educational Research, Griffith University, Logan Campus, QLD 4131, Australia



- Self-report from 83 children on the spectrum
- Asked “What do you like most about yourself?”, “What are you absolutely best at?” and “What do you enjoy the most?”



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“What do you like best about yourself?”

- A good friend/person
- Good at particular things
- Hard-working/smart
- Unique
- Nothing



AutismCRC

“I am friendly”

“I am a good person”

“I have a big heart”



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“Huge knowledge on special area”

“Good with the computer”

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“I try hard”

“My intelligence”



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“I try hard”

“My intelligence”

“How unique and weird I am”

“I am different and a geek”

Key findings that may interest families

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-021-04889-x>

BRIEF REPORT

Brief Report: Associations Between Autism Characteristics, Written and Spoken Communication Skills, and Social Interaction Skills in Preschool-Age Children on the Autism Spectrum

Marleen F. Westerveld^{1,2,4}  • Jessica Paynter^{1,2} • Dawn Adams^{1,2,3}

- n = 125 children aged 4-5
- Children had stronger written than verbal language skills
- Children with more autism characteristics had more challenges in spoken language and listening skills than they did written skills
 - autism characteristics may have a different impact on different language skills
- Need more work looking at literacy in autism beyond the preschool years

Key findings that may interest families

- Nine papers on anxiety in autism
- Helped inform new thinking including identifying that:
 - Anxiety is impacting children on the autism spectrum as young as five years
 - Anxiety in autism may present more behaviourally rather than physiologically
 - Anxiety impacts quality of life more than autism characteristics
 - Almost 80% of children are impacted by anxiety at school, many of whom do not feel their anxiety is recognised by others
 - Intolerance of uncertainty may be a specific factor impacting school anxiety.

Your data is informing under-researched area

AUTISM IN ADULTHOOD
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Autistic Mothers of Autistic Children: A Preliminary Study in an Under-Researched Area

Dawn Adams, PhD, DClInPsy, BSc (Hons), PGDip (Neuro),¹⁻³
Madeline Stainsby, MPsych(Clin),^{3,4} and Jessica Paynter, PhD, BSc (Hons)²⁻⁴



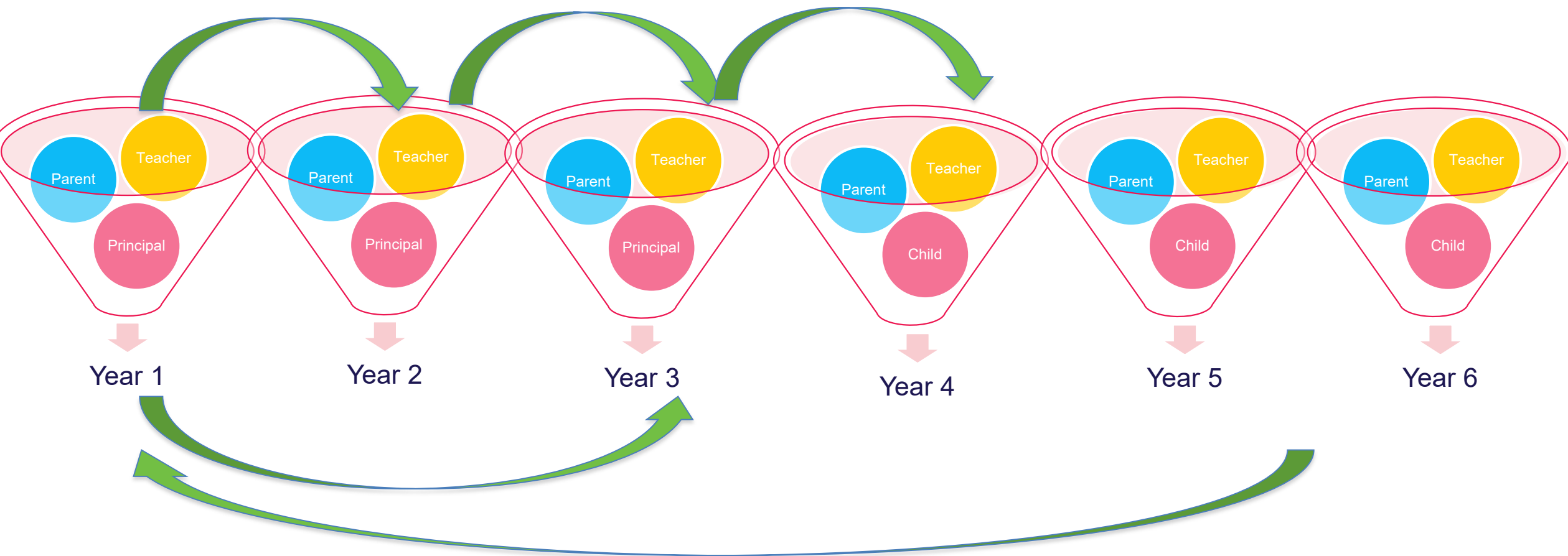
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We're also training the next generation of clinicians and researchers

- Anonymous LASA data has been used to help people undergo their research training
 - 1 x PhD and 3 x Masters by Research
 - 2 x Psychology and 1 x Clinical psychology
 - Plus more in progress!



The next step!



Thank you

This work is not possible without
the input from you and your
teachers

If you have any questions or
queries please contact Robyn
Garland, Project Coordinator

R.Garland@Griffith.edu.au



 **Griffith** UNIVERSITY

Queensland, Australia



AutismCRC

Autism CRC is the world's first national, cooperative research centre focused on autism. We are taking a whole-of-life approach to autism focusing on early years, schools years and adulthood.