



Enhancing the News

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Living with Autism

Children affected by autism and their families potentially face a lifetime of hardship as they deal with the challenges a disorder that has no cure brings.

According to 1000hours.com.au, autism affects at least 1 in 160 Australian children. The lifelong developmental disorder is characterised by problems with social interaction and communication skills and the display of obsessive and repetitive behaviour.

The social and economic costs of autism are huge and far-reaching. Early intervention programs and special education aim to significantly improve the quality of life of autistic children and that of the families' involved.

EnhanceTV has a range of resources that may help to inform students about autism and provide an insight into the lives of those affected. [The Black Balloon](#) study guide supports the Australian film about a family dealing with the day-to-day challenges of living with an autistic son. The study guide, [A Stranger in the Family](#), accompanies the film that explores the lives of three Australian families for a year, as they manage children with autism.

[Insight: Understanding Autism](#) asks what causes autism? Why is it on the increase? And is there a cure? While, [Make Me Normal](#) journeys into the autistic world, [The Woman Who Thinks Like a Cow](#) tells the remarkable story of Temple Grandin, the autistic academic who has changed the way we understand animal and autistic behaviour. [Mum's the Word: Expect the Unexpected – Ep 8 of 8](#) discusses the difficulties in bringing up an autistic son. [The 7.30 Report](#) features the story, 'Calls for Government support for Autism', that focuses on the hardships faced by families as they nurture autistic children and the lack of help and support they receive.

[Compass: A Week With William](#) reveals the family who have dedicated their lives to looking after their autistic son William, and [60 Minutes](#) contains the story, 'Beating the Odds', that provides an insight into the life of Jackson West who was diagnosed with a rare and severe form of autism.

[Four Corners: Painting the Mind](#) reveals Professor Allan Snyder's exploration of the brain's creative potential and shows how he experiments to simulate the effects of autism and unlock the potential of the brain's right hemisphere. [Four Corners: The Behaviour Business](#) investigates a controversial drug-free treatment for ADHD and other learning difficulties such as dyslexia and autism.

