



Education Other Than At School
(EOTAS)
&
Spectrum Space Flexi-Time
Distance Learning Programme



A resource to support the webinar delivered
by Nicola Reekie & Clare Truman

November 2023 for
The PDA Space Portal
(www.thepdaspace.com)

Created by Helen Edgar



What is Education Other Than At School? (EOTAS)

Every child deserves access to an education, but for many neurodivergent children and their families, this is often much harder to achieve than it should be, and school may not be the best place for them to learn.

If your child has an Education and Health Care Plan (**EHCP**) but cannot access an educational setting, one option would be to consider Education Other Than At School (**EOTAS**).

If a child or young person has an EOTAS package, they receive their educational provision either at home or in another space that may not be a registered educational setting. The local authority remains legally responsible for providing this once it has been agreed.

“Under Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014, a local authority is placed under an **absolute legal obligation** to ensure a child or young person receives all of the provision contained in Section F of their EHCP unless the circumstances in **Section 42(5)** are met. Section 42(5) says the obligation is on the LA to provide the EHCP provision unless *“the child’s parents or the young person has made suitable alternative arrangements.”*”

(Hayley Mason & Nicole Lee, (2021), Special Needs Jungle *EOTAS: Education Otherwise Than At School. What is it, and can I get it?*)



What is Spectrum Space Flexi-Time Distance Learning Programme?

Clare Truman set up Spectrum Space Flexi-Time Distance Learning Programme * to meet the needs of children (many of whom are also PDAers) who could not attend school. Securing an EOTAS package such as Spectrum Space means children can still access an education that met their interests and needs.

Spectrum Space integrates a young person's EHCP targets into their personalised curriculum. They provide a "broad and balanced curriculum through bespoke activities designed to appeal to students' particular interests. Resources are delivered in a pack (literally, a box arrives for your child) each week along with instructions for delivering the activities.

Parents may choose to deliver the learning themselves or to employ personal assistants to deliver the learning activities for them. It is envisaged that the learning activities will take ten hours a week to complete. Activities are based around the Functional Skills Curriculum for English, Maths and ICT and on some of the programmes offered by ASDAN (www.asdan.org.uk)”

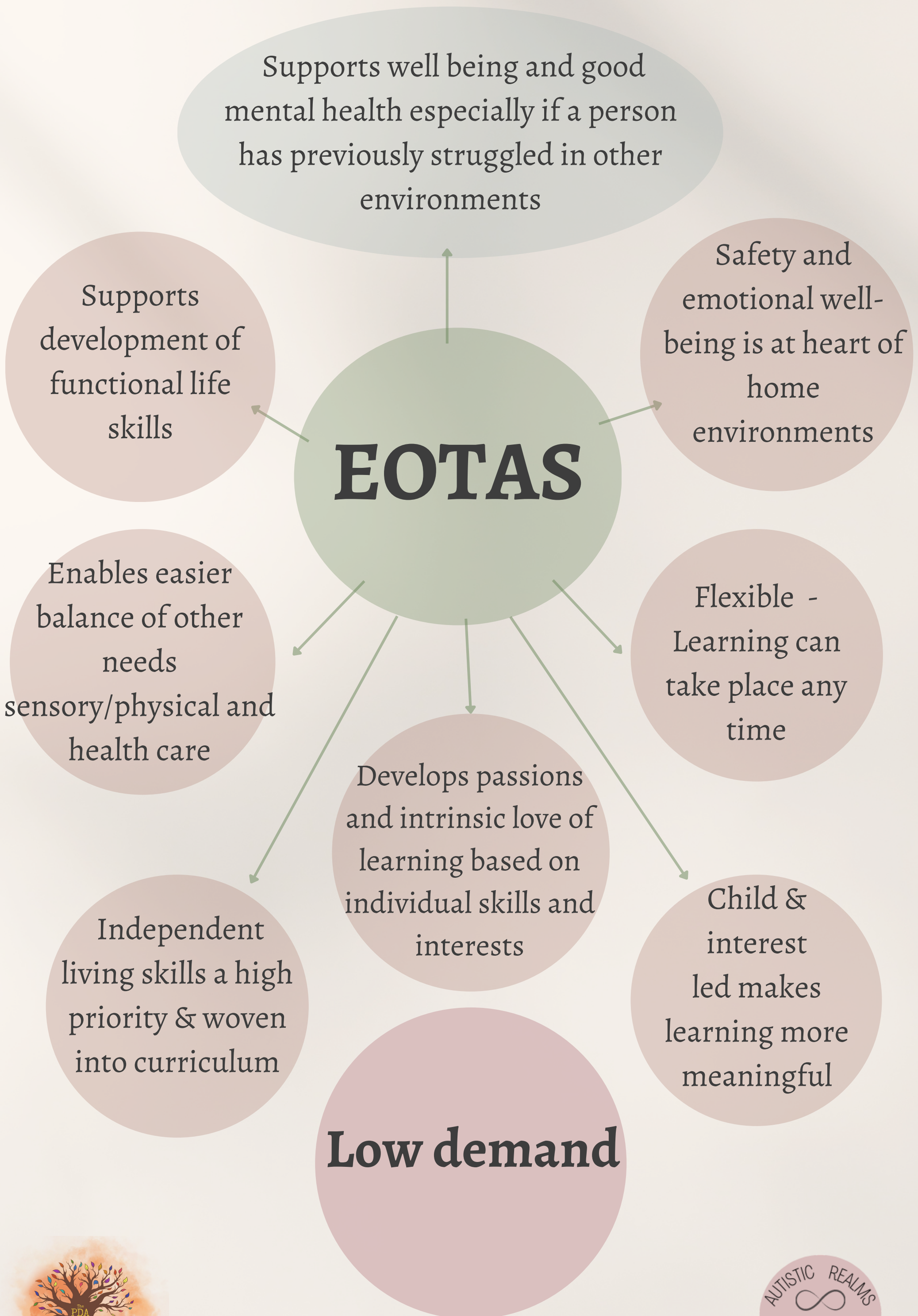
Clare Truman describes how some children have said this feels like Christmas and are excited to get a box of all their favourite activities each week! An amazing way to encourage curiosity and learning.



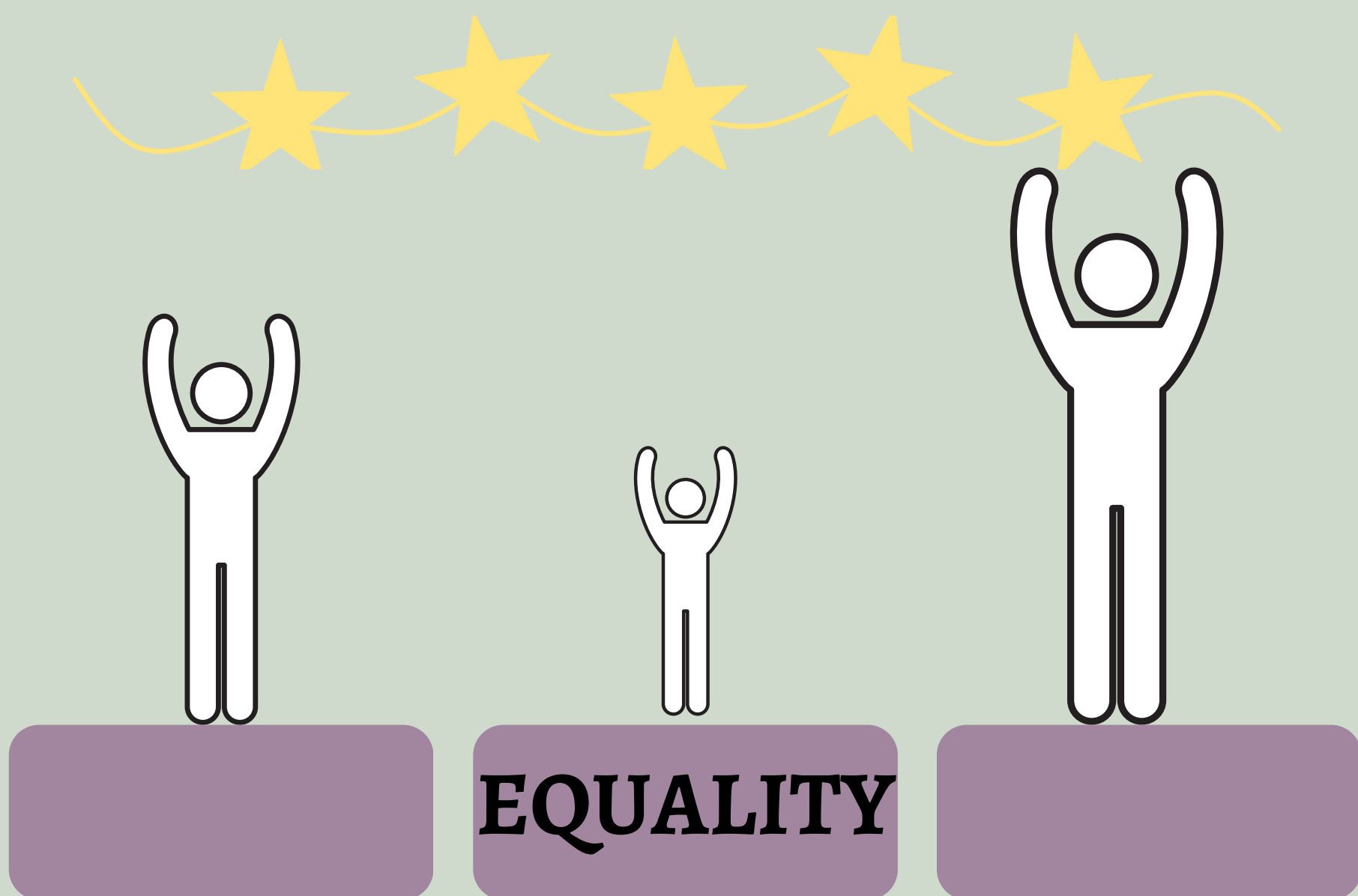
**many other EOTAS packages are available*



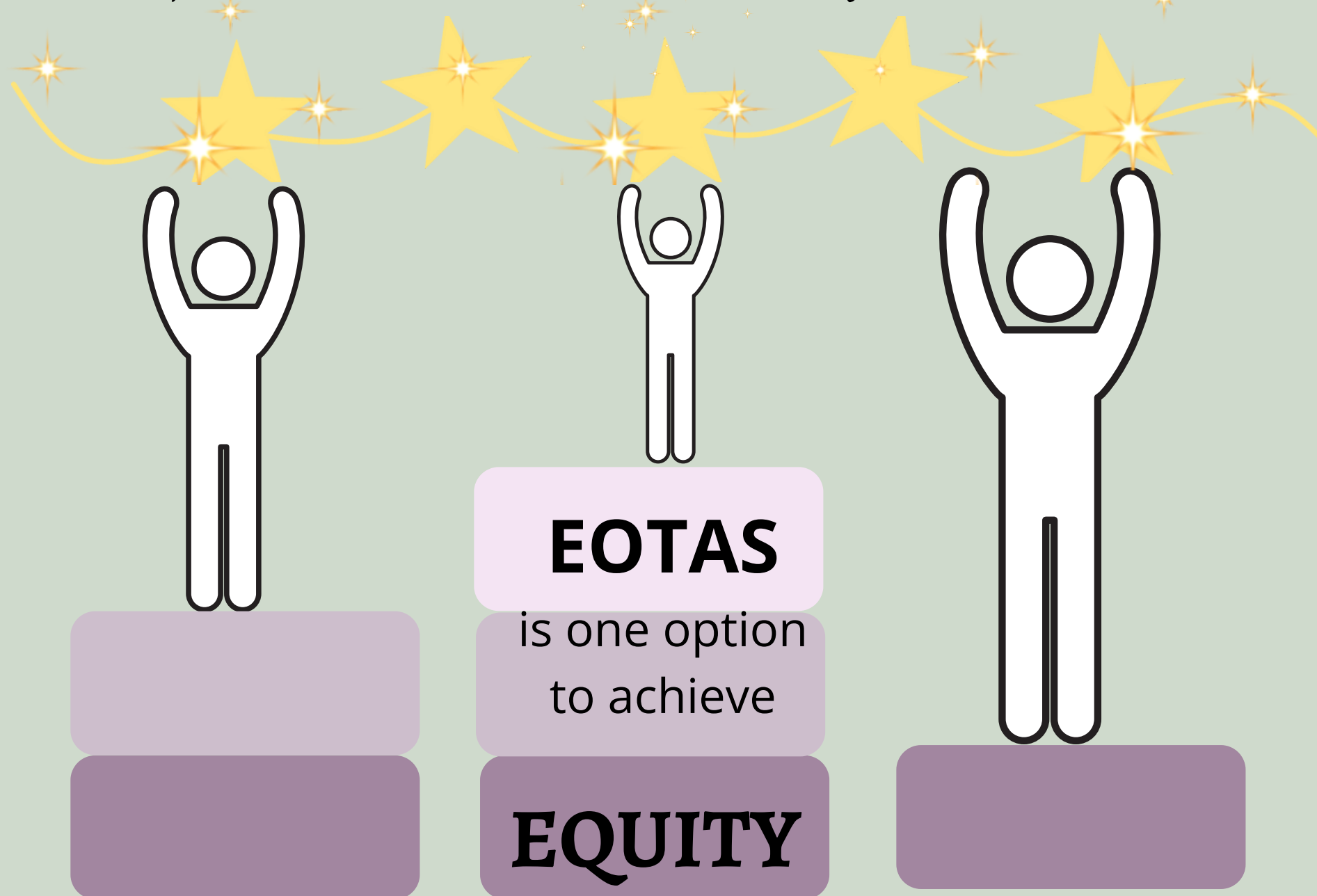
Benefits of Education Other Than At School



Support our Children to Reach for the Stars



Equality - providing everyone with the same 'reasonable adjustments' doesn't meet everyone's needs



Equity - providing each person with what they specifically need to succeed means everyone can achieve.



Considering EOTAS for your young person

Your child or young person will need to have an Education Health Care Plan in place to secure an EOTAS package.

With an EOTAS package the local authority is responsible for arranging and paying for educational provision. Section 61 of the Children and Families Act 2014 supports this.

EOTAS is often only agreed after the local authority have exhausted all other options and potential school places. Section F of the EHCP should outline the EOTAS Plan.

Further information about EOTAS can be found:
Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (IPSEA)
www.ipsea.org.uk



Signposting

1

www.thepdaspacespace.com

Family support workshops, webinars, coaching and online peer support groups.
(Founder: Nicola Reekie)

2

www.spectrumspace.co.uk

Website designed by autistic young people, for autistic people
(Founder: Clare Truman)

3

www.autismunderstood.co.uk

Website designed by autistic young people, for autistic people
(Founder: Spectrum Gaming)

4

www.pdasociety.org.uk

PDA Society UK

5

www.autisticrealms.com

Autism/ education/ mental health articles and resources
(Founder Helen Edgar)

Please seek professional advice if needed.





A free community resource
to support the webinar delivered by

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By
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Autistic Realms

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