

# Forming your research question



Photograph is open access

Use this presentation with  
the course workbook

# Learning Outcomes - 1

When you have completed this course you will be able to:

1. Identify a potential research theme within a general topic that interests you;



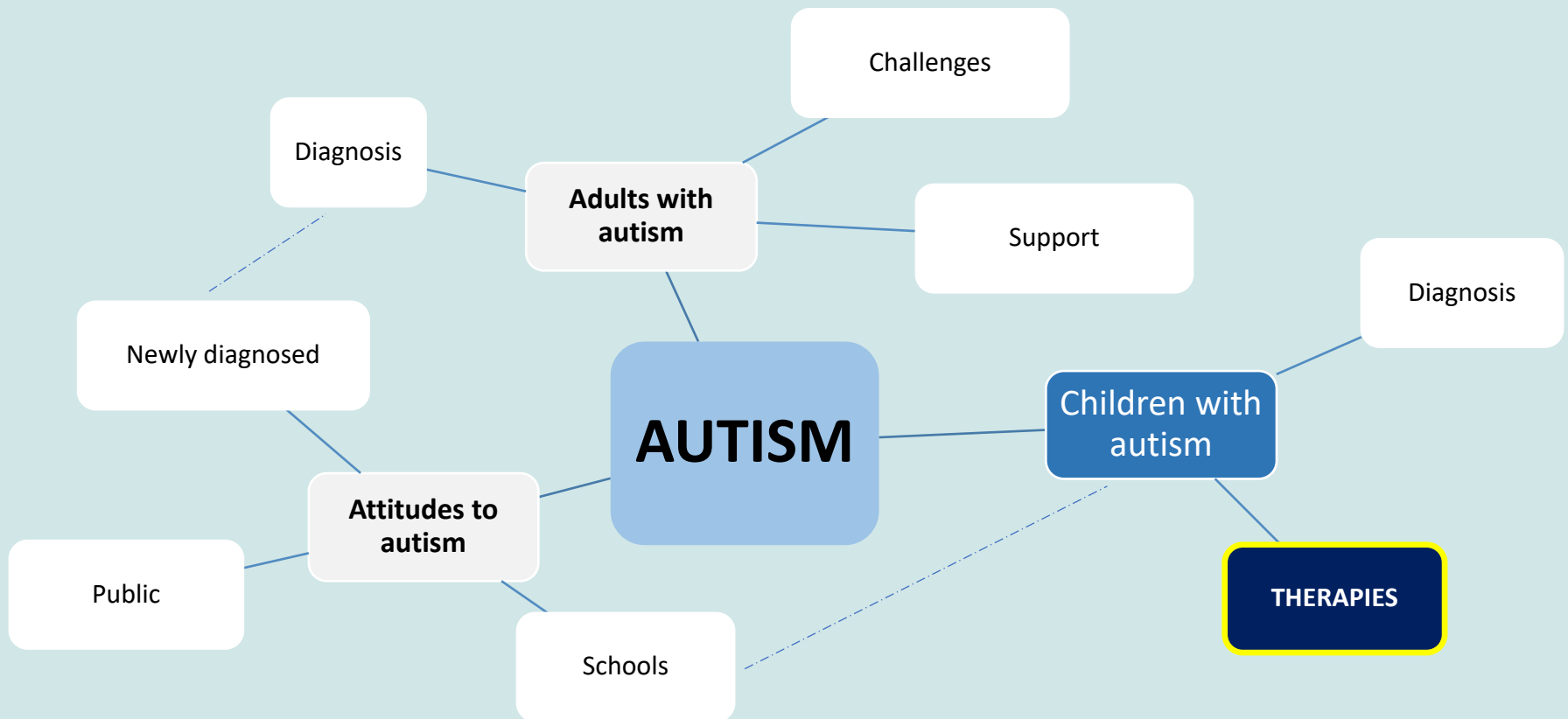
# Learning Outcomes - 2

2. Understand how Structured Frameworks are used to construct a research question;
3. Draft a research question that relates to your interests;
4. Evaluate your learning to plan the next steps of your research.



# 1: Your general research topic

This example shows how a concept map has led to **therapies for children with autism** as the basis for a research question.



## 2: Structured frameworks

### FRAMEWORK: PICO

COMPONENTS	CONCEPTS
<b>P</b> = Patient/Problem/Clinical condition or patient population	Children with autism
<b>I</b> = Intervention you are using (i.e. Drug/surgery/occupational therapy intervention)	Pet therapy
<b>C</b> = Comparison or alternative	Music therapy
<b>O</b> = Outcomes (what you aim to prove/accomplish or measure)	Quality of life/impact on activities of daily living

# 3: Draft your research question

Use the framework that you think works best for your concepts

PICO component	Example
<b>P</b> = Patient/Problem/Clinical condition or patient population	Children with autism
<b>I</b> = Intervention you are using (i.e. Drug/surgery/occupational therapy intervention)	Pet therapy
<b>C</b> = Comparison or alternative	Music therapy
<b>O</b> = Outcomes (what you aim to prove/accomplish or measure)	Quality of life/impact on activities of daily living

## Question:

Does **pet therapy (I)** improve the **quality of life (O)** of **children with autism (P)** compared with **children with autism accessing music therapy (C)**

# 4: Discuss your research questions

Points to consider:

- Are the questions specific?
- Are the questions clear?
- Were the structured frameworks useful?



# Reactions and reflection

Do you feel more confident about the process of writing research questions?

NOW

- ▶ Record your reflections and plan of action

LATER:

- ▶ Send your feedback on the course to RCOT (page 11 of your workbook)
- ▶ Complete your certificate on page 19 of the workbook
- ▶ In a few days' time, review and start your plan of action