



happykidsholidays

about happykidsholidays

happykidsholidays is a non profit making association (loi 1901) aimed at **supporting** families with children and teenagers with Autistic Spectrum Disorders who want to come on holiday in **France**. We are registered with the French authorities, registration number **W243002752**.

The owners of all the properties or gites we feature have at least a basic **understanding** of ASD, Autism and Asperger Syndrome and are committed to trying to ensure your family has the best, most **relaxing** holiday possible, in surroundings that are suitable to your needs, and in a **non-judgemental** and supportive atmosphere.

We can help you prepare for your holiday in a way that is **appropriate** for you. For holidays in certain locations, we can provide **support** while you are here.

At all times, we **promise** that your questions will be **listened to**, taken seriously and answered honestly.

about me

I was a **teacher** in UK from 1994 until I moved to Dordogne, France in 2006. I worked in mainstream and special primary and secondary schools, for the National Autistic Society, and for Sheffield LEA **Autism** service. Many of the families I worked with never had a **holiday**, but they all had a huge **need** for a break.

Once I became lucky enough to live in such a beautiful place, I decided to try and **enable** people to have the holidays they deserved, so I talked to some people who agreed with me and *happykidsholidays* was born.



properties



We have an ever growing selection of **properties**, holiday cottages and gites throughout **France** where owners have committed to providing a **non judgemental**, supportive atmosphere, and to taking all your questions and requests seriously and **accommodating** them if at all possible.

All of the owners have received information about Autistic Spectrum Disorders and have completed a **comprehensive** questionnaire (which can be provided on request) about the **suitability** of their property to the needs of people with ASD. We have spoken at length with them by phone, and we believe them all to be honest and **committed** to upholding our aims.

Click each property to find out more **information**, photographs and contact information for each property. If you would like to check **availability** or book a holiday this must be done with the property owner.

happykidsholidays cannot receive or confirm any holiday bookings.

We must advise you that we have not **visited** all of properties listed on this site and we can't be held responsible in any way for the information provided by the property owners, or for the quality of subsequent holidays booked. Your **bookings** are made **directly** between you and the property owner and are made at your own risk.

If you have booked, or are considering booking a holiday in the **Dordogne**, we may be able to visit the property for you and provide the owner with **information** about ASD.



Planning and preparation service



Because we **understand** that children, teenagers and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) often need additional preparation for change, and that this **preparation** differs from person to person, we offer a pre-holiday service so that by the time your holiday comes, you and your children are **relaxed** (ish) and ready for your break in France.





Standard service

- Additional photos of holiday gite and surroundings, including, where possible, **individual** photos of places, rooms and objects you need
- A set of **rebus** symbols of words associated with your chosen property/holiday if required
- A list of places of interest in the vicinity of your property, with contact links where **possible**
- Links to websites of interest in relation your **holiday** and your holiday destination
- A questionnaire for you to complete about your child's **specific** requirements. Your property owner will then be able to **prepare** for your visit as thoroughly as possible, and we can tell you whether, for example, you can find Heinz baked beans nearby or will need to bring your own!
- Provide cards explaining what ASD is in **French**
- Online support. We commit to answering any **questions** you have as quickly, efficiently as possible, and in an honest way, no matter how unusual that question is.



Because everyone is different, we can also offer

- Personalised **social stories** for your child

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- Preparation worksheets for your child to complete (and return for **feedback** if required)
 - MSN **chat** with your child about their holiday
 - Leaflets sent of specific places of **interest** to you
 - We can provide a full **translation/interpretation** service for you wherever necessary

To cover our costs, we charge £40 for the standard **service**, with a small additional cost if you require one of the additional services.

We may be able to **offer** you this service even if you booked a holiday not linked to *happykidsholidays*. Please contact emma@happykidsholidays.com for more information.

If there is something that isn't mentioned here which you feel would help you better **prepare** for your holiday, please don't hesitate to ask and we will do our best.



on holiday service



Families with children, teenagers and adults with **Autistic Spectrum Disorders** (ASD) can need a little extra help whilst on holiday. If you stay in a property showing the *on-holiday support icon* we may be able to offer you additional **assistance** during your stay. (Some of the **happykidsholidays** property owners are also able to **offer** you some of these on-holiday support services.)

We can:

- Meet you at **Bergerac** airport to help with children, car hire, bags etc and guide you to your holiday gite
- **Babysit** and child mind for an evening or part of a day at your holiday gite
- Accompany your family on trips out in the **Dordogne**
- Do your **shopping** for you, before your holiday if you prefer
- Provide readymade **meals**, (vegetarian, organic, home grown, gluten free if necessary) chosen in advance
- **Discuss** ASD with you, and offer advice in relation to your child or your situation
- Provide on call support for questions or **emergencies**
- We speak, read and write French and so are able to help you with any language difficulties you may have whilst on holiday.

We charge between £10 and £15 per hour for these **services**, plus any entrance fees and other costs incurred (including fuel).



Meals are charged for individually.


Because we are a **small** organisation, these additional support services need to be booked and paid for **in advance**.



joining happykidsholidays



If you are a gite, cottage, villa, bed & breakfast or hotel **owner** in France and you are interested in providing ASD friendly holidays then we would love to **hear** from you. To find out more contact Emma at emma@happykidsholidays.com.



Likewise, if you are a **professional** who has worked with children, teenagers or adults with ASD and would like to find out more about offering on-holiday support please **contact** Emma at emma@happykidsholidays.com.

Contacting happykidsholidays

If you are interested in finding out more about a property or booking a holiday, please **contact** the owner directly; we cannot advise you on **availability** or make bookings on your behalf. Please do remember to mention *happykidsholidays* when you contact an owner.

If you are a property owner whose property is already **listed** on the *happykidsholidays* website and you would like to make changes to your entry please contact colleen@happykidsholidays.com

If you have any suggestions about how we can **improve** our service and for all other queries, please contact Emma Ryland at emma@happykidsholidays.com