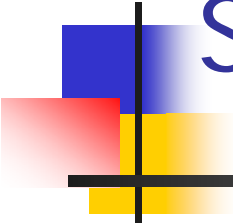


Autism: Training and Understanding amongst Mainstream Primary School Teachers





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Acknowledgements

Sydney Children's Hospital
Foundation

School and Teacher participants



Objective

- Develop and evaluate an evidence based resource produced in response to Teachers stated preferences and needs.



Rational

- Complex and rapidly changing field
- Integration of children with a diagnosis of ASD into mainstream schools – Salamanca Statement 1994, Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Webb 03, Tebrugegge 04, Mc Dermott S 07.
- Education is the intervention with the “best track record” for the management of ASD – Jordan et al 1998, Roberts 2007
- Co-morbidity and medication – Reading 2005



Literature

- **Stone W, Rosenbaum J.** A Comparison of Teacher and Parent Views of Autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. **1988**;18(3):403-413
- **Help S.** Autism: The Teacher's View. *Autism*. **1999**;3(3):287-298
- **O'Keeffe MJ, Mc Donald M.** Bridging the gap between health and education Words are not enough. *J. Paediatr. Child Health*. **2004**;40:252-257



Method

1. Questionnaire development
2. Stake holder consultation
3. Ethics applications
4. Questionnaire administration
5. Baseline Data Analysis
6. Production of an evidence-based resource
7. Administration of the resource
8. Evaluation of the resource



Questionnaire Development

- ASD – Experience and Training
- Interest in being part of the therapeutic team
- Knowledge/beliefs analysis
 - Qualitative and Quantitative
- Interest in additional information
 - Content
 - Format



Baseline Questionnaire Results

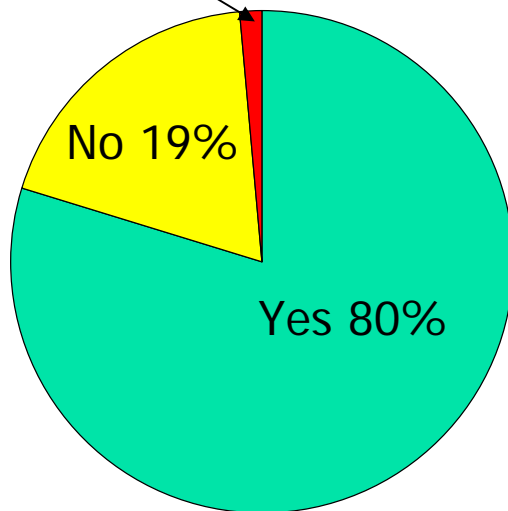
- 69 completed questionnaires
- Included 7 student teachers
- Years of teaching
 - 0-5 years 9 teachers
 - 5-10 years 8 teachers
 - 10-15 years 11 teachers
 - >15 years 34 teachers
- Sex ratio F:M 43:26



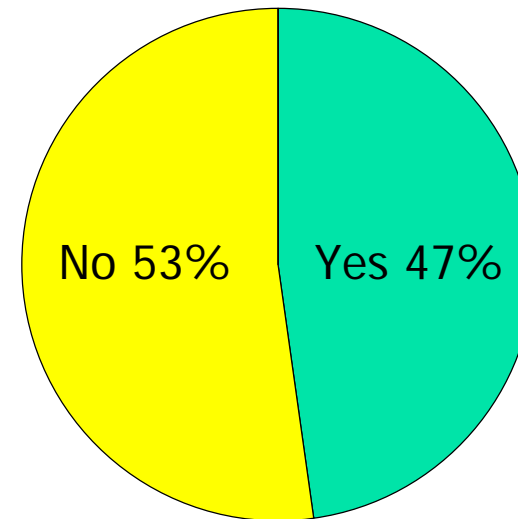
Results

Have you ever taught a child with Autism / ASD?

No Information 1%

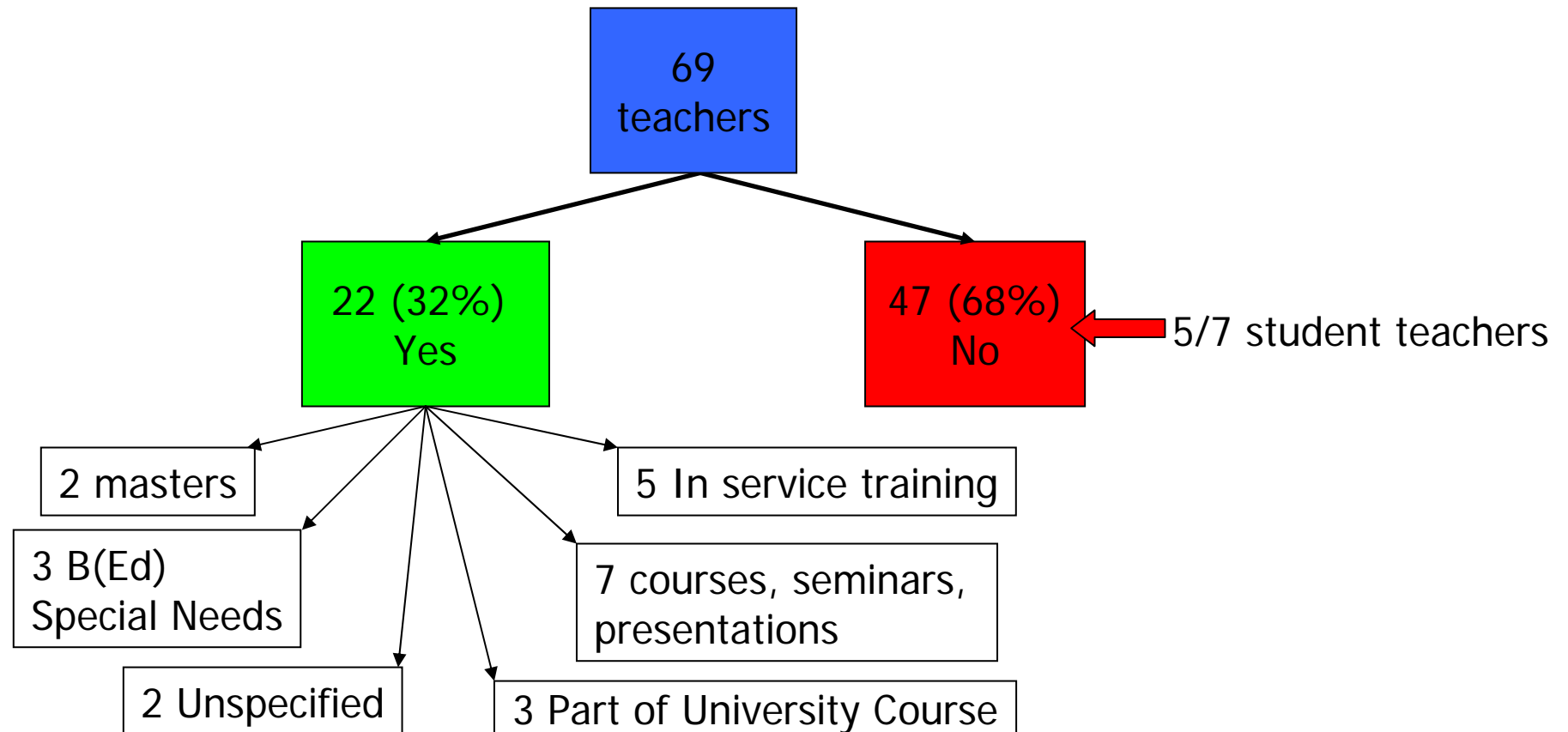


Do you currently teach a child with Autism / ASD?



Results

Have you received specialist training in teaching children with Autism / ASD?

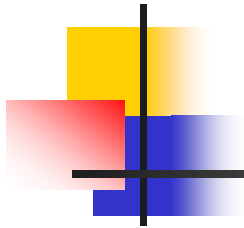




Results

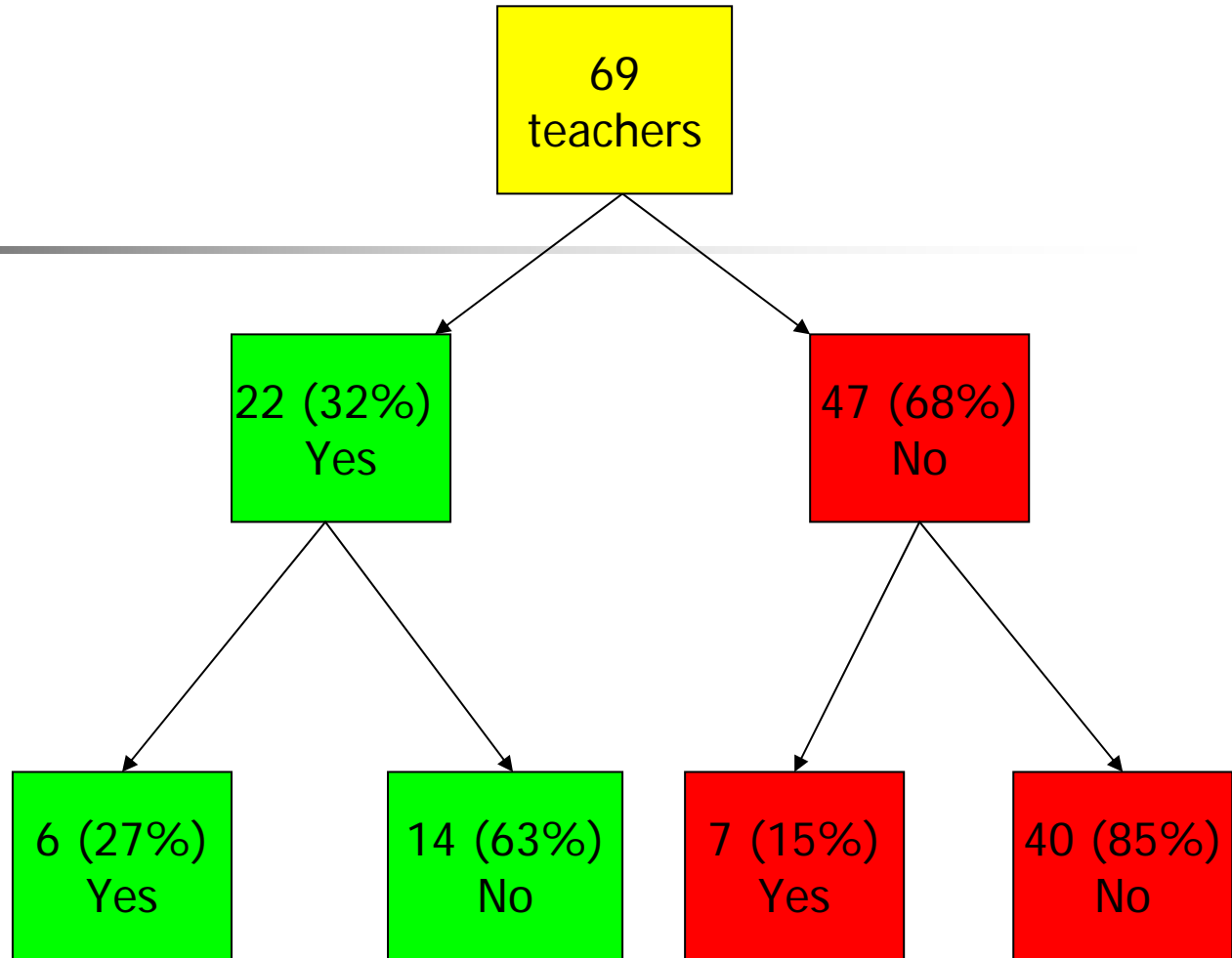
Are you comfortable with the distinction between Autism and ASD?

Yes	13 (19%)
No	54 (78%)
No information	2 (3%)



Have you received specialist training in teaching children with Autism / ASD?

Are you comfortable with the distinction between Autism and ASD?



Resources?

"We have an autistic consultant come into school. I taught a child with autism last year but felt the one hour supposedly once a week was not enough"

"Support from DET is good but minimal, support from ASPECT does not take account the needs of other students and whole class issues"

"Internal Support – Autism, School Counselor 2 days per week for 500 students, Consultation, in class support (max 3 hrs per week, 1-2 term per year, Autism classes (but need to "match criteria"))"

"Depending on whether student is in mainstream or special unit. In the unit we cannot access autistic outreach support"



Results

Are you aware of resources within the wider community which can assist you with your management of a child with Autism/ASD?

Yes	25 (36%)
No	42 (61%)
No answer	2 (03%)

10 ASPECT

8 Health Professionals

7 Internet



Results

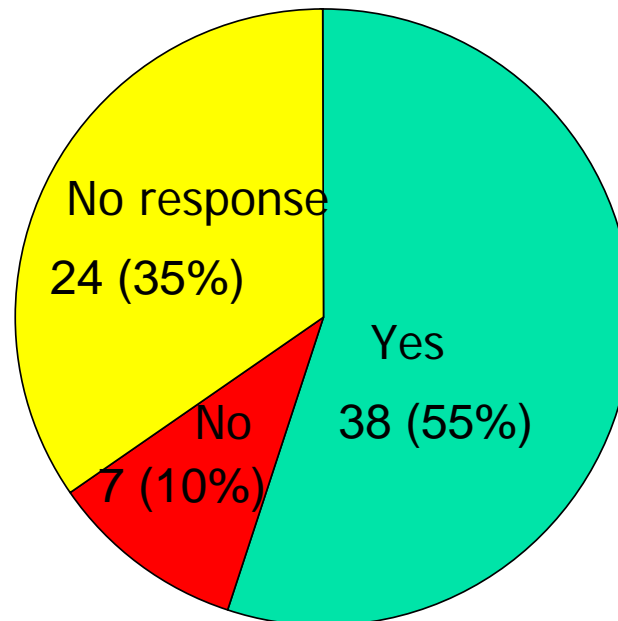
Do you feel you have a role in relaying information/concerns to the treating doctor?

Yes	22 (32%)
No	21 (30%)
No answer	25 (36%)



Results

Would you be interested in monitoring the effect of interventions e.g. completing questionnaires, or providing feedback to the therapeutic team.



Would you value more information regarding Autism / ASD?





The Resource

- A presentation
- A written document



Conclusion

- 80% of teachers who participated had taught a child with a diagnosis of ASD
- 47% of teachers questioned were currently teaching a child with a diagnosis of ASD
- 68% of teachers who responded had not received specialist training
- 93% of teachers questioned responded that they wanted more information
- Of the 45 teachers who responded to the question regarding participation in multidisciplinary care 38 (84%) responded positively



Questions?
