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CARD Update

As we continue to look for effective ways to meet the growing needs for training and direct assistance, we are in the process of developing web-based training for positive behavior support (PBS) and other critical issues. Initially, our plan is to include four training modules on the following topics on our website:

- Collaborative Teaming and Person-Centered Planning
- Functional Behavior Assessment
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Developing a Positive Behavior Support Plan

These introductory modules may be valuable for individual parents or professionals. However, they were designed to provide a positive behavior support team with an awareness of how the PBS process should proceed. We believe these modules will better prepare each team to participate in the activities that are essential to the success of the PBS process.

CARD-USF has been providing PBS training and support to teams that include school personnel and family members for the last year. We have learned that scheduling training and meeting time is difficult for families and schools. We believe that these short, web-based trainings will be accessible to families and economical for districts and may lead to an even more productive and efficient PBS process. Please look for these new training opportunities on our website at <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu>.

If you are interested in learning more about how to organize a team to participate in the PBS process and to receive support in implementing activities discussed in the modules, please contact us at (813) 974-2532, Toll-Free Florida Only: 1-800-333-4530 or by email at: card-usf@fmhi.usf.edu.

Additionally, CARD-USF is planning to provide a series of trainings throughout the region to meet the most critical needs of families with children with autism and related disabilities. For more detailed information on these trainings, please see the article on page 7, "New Training Series."



Put the "A" in autism drawing by Brenda, Elbert Elementary, 4th grade. Additional pictures of the 10th Annual CARD conference "wall of success" on page 3.

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Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

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Our Mission

The mission of the Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD) at the University of South Florida is to provide support and assistance that optimizes the potential of people with autism and related disabilities. Our effort to achieve this mission is exemplified in the four “components for caring” that are the focus of our work:

- Direct Assistance - Providing individualized support for people with autism and related disabilities, and their families, in natural community settings.
- Technical Assistance & Consultation - Undertaking activities on behalf of programs (e.g., classroom, supported living residence, supported employment site, etc.) that serve people with autism and related disabilities.
- Professional Training - Providing instruction on autism and related disabilities through our workshops, conferences, in-service training, and college courses.
- Public Education and Awareness - Developing and disseminating information about people with autism and related disabilities.

As one of six regional, university-based CARD sites, CARD-USF provides its services to individuals with autism and related disabilities, their families, related professionals, and the general public throughout an eighteen county catchment area in west, central, and southwest Florida.

Endorsement Policy

As a policy, CARD will not lend its name to the endorsement of any specific program, practice, or model that is offered for service to people with autism and related disabilities. However, the sharing of information and training opportunities are key functions of the CARD program.

Events, activities, programs, and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law and in accordance with the University's respect for personal dignity.

Preparing for IEP Meetings

Springtime means beaches, robins, flowers, and annual Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings. The IEP provides for all instruction, supports, and services for individuals with disabilities. The IEP is both a process and a document. The process involves all of the steps that the IEP team takes as they develop an appropriate educational program based on individual needs. The IEP team consists of parents/guardians, teachers (both regular education and special education teachers), someone who can interpret the results of evaluations to the team, someone representing the school district who can sign off on services, the student, if appropriate, and for students age 14 and above, representatives from transition service agencies. The document is confirmation of the decisions agreed upon by the team.

Therefore, it is essential that a meaningful, relevant IEP is developed and agreed upon during the meeting. The following tips are provided to facilitate getting ready for an IEP meeting.

Before going to the IEP meeting, think about long-term goals for your child.

Do you want your child to live independently, hold a competitive job, participate fully in the community, and have a social life? Knowing what you want for your child in the future assists the IEP team in determining meaningful goals and objectives to work on in the upcoming school year.

Know your child's current level of performance including the areas of strength.

The IEP goals and objectives are based upon your child's present level of performance. What are the areas in which your child needs assistance? More importantly, what are your child's strengths upon which success can be built?

Often, the IEP meeting seems to focus primarily on the child's deficits, or what your child cannot do. Although it is important to know the deficits in order to determine what instruction needs to occur, it is also important to consider your child's strengths so that successful experiences can occur each day.

Consider creating a Positive Student Profile for your child.

A sample can be found at http://www.spannj.org/BasicRights/appendix_c.htm or call CARD at 813-974-6439 or 800-333-4530 and we can send you a copy.

Make sure the goals and objectives (or benchmarks) are measurable.

IDEA 97 requires a statement of measurable annual goals, including benchmarks or short-term objectives, related to meeting your child's needs.

Short-term objectives break down the annual goal into discrete skills, while benchmarks describe the amount of progress your child is expected to make this year.

Questions to ask IEP team members include:

- “How will that skill be measured to make sure my child is progressing adequately?”
- “What rate of progress are we hoping to make in this skill?”

Participation with nondisabled children.

The IEP must explain the extent (if any) to which the child will not participate with nondisabled children in the regular class and other school activities. This is an important distinction from previous versions of the IDEA in which it was assumed that a child with special needs would be served in self-contained or center-based classrooms. Now there is an assumption of greater access to a general education curriculum and less restrictive settings, and a mandate to justify placing a student in more restrictive classes or activities.

Participation in state and district-wide tests.

The IEP must state what modifications in the administration of state- and district-wide tests the child will need. If a test is not appropriate for the child, the IEP must state why the test is not appropriate and how the child will be tested instead.

Be an active participant of the IEP team.

Often, schools do not recognize the family as an actively involved member of the IEP team. Remember, you as the family member bring critical information to the table that assists the team in writing an effective IEP. For example, you know your child's strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes attitude toward school, and current community involvement.

To ensure active involvement, make sure that the IEP meeting is at a mutually agreeable time and that enough time is scheduled for the meeting so that the team does not feel rushed.

See inset on page 3 for links to online resources.

Information on developing IEPs can be found on-line at the following sites.
 This information is provided courtesy of Family Network on Disabilities of Florida
<http://fndfl.org> or (800) 825-5736

STATE OF FLORIDA	FEDERAL/ NATIONAL LEVEL
<p>Getting Ready for Your Child's IEP Meeting http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/iep-card.pdf. This is a 2-page document in PDF format that discusses who could be on the IEP team, how to prepare for the meeting, how to participate in the IEP meeting, and what happens after the IEP meeting.</p> <p>Developing Quality Individual Educational Plans: A Guide for Instructional Personnel and Families Florida Dept. of Education; Division of Public Schools and Community Education; Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services. This guide has been developed to help instructional personnel and parents develop quality individual educational plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities.</p> <p>Go to the URL at http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/pub-home.htm, scroll down to title. The document is broken out into several URLs. Start at the Cover and Introduction section: http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/qfront.pdf</p> <p>Technical Assistance Paper TAP99-4: Individual Education Plans and IDEA '97 http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/tap99-4d.pdf Identifies the IEP components as stated in IDEA, provides guidance & direction to IEP teams, schools, & districts.</p>	<p>NICHCY Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) (LG2) (This includes Appendix A—formerly known as Appendix C—to Part 300: Notice of Interpretation.) http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/otherpub/lg2.htm</p> <p>U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) A Guide to the Individualized Education Program. http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/Products/IEP_Guide/ — Includes a section on Writing the IEP http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/Products/IEP_Guide/#Writing%20the%20IEP</p> <p>Developing Legally Correct and Educationally Appropriate IEPs Drasgow, Yell, and Robinson (Published in Remedial and Special Education, Volume 22, Number 6, November/December 2001, Pages 359-373) http://www.ldonline.org/ld_indepth/iep/legally_correct_ieps.html</p>

Card Conference a Success!

In January, CARD celebrated its tenth annual conference, A Decade of Commitment for People with Autism, Deaf-Blindness, and Related Disabilities and Their Families, at the Hilton St. Petersburg. The conference welcomed over 450 attendees from around the state, with even a few individuals from outside Florida. In celebration of 10 years of service, CARD created the agenda booklet in the form of a yearbook, showcasing all the CARD centers' staff and speakers for the conference.

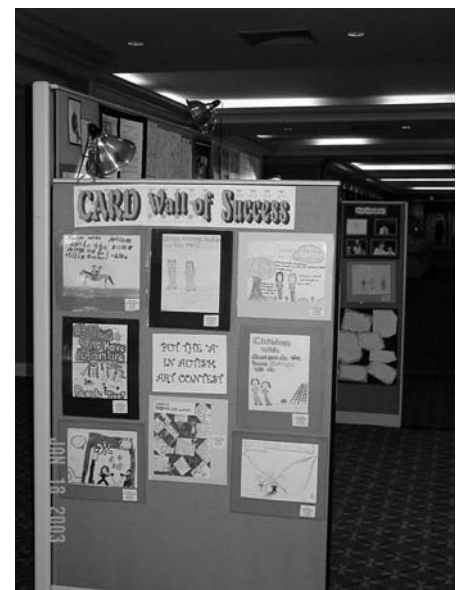


CARD Wall of Success

Additionally, a Wall of Success was on display throughout the conference with pictures, letters, drawings, and newspaper articles - all sent in by CARD constituents and staff - as examples of the many successes CARD has had in the past decade.

More than 360 teachers, who represented almost every district in Florida, attended the Pre-Conference Day for Teachers, which has been held for the past three years. In addition to several break-out sessions presented by past participants of the DOE Partnership Program, the teachers also had an opportunity to learn more about the program and past projects by visiting the many tables of poster presentations and interacting with the current program participants.

Also, for the first time, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council sponsored a Pre-Conference Day Focusing on Adult Services. Almost 150 family members and service providers attended this pre-conference, gaining useful information about transitions to adulthood, residential options, and employment for individuals with disabilities.



The "Wall Of Success" demonstrated that with hard work and dedication CARD makes a difference!



Registration went smoothly thanks to CARD staff and Volunteers

Trainings and Workshops for Families and Professionals

County	Training	Date	Time	Location
Hendry	Early Childhood Series: Toilet Training. #1358	4/25/2003	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	RCMA 551 W. Cowboy Way La Belle
	Early Childhood Series: Support Strategies for Your Child's Transition to a New Classroom. #1359	5/30/2003	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	RCMA 551 W. Cowboy Way La Belle
	Early Childhood Series: Getting What You Need for Your Child. #1360	6/27/2003	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	RCMA 551 W. Cowboy Way La Belle
<i>Hendry County workshops require CARD registration. See page 7</i>				
Hillsborough	Session 3: Plugging In the Curriculum	4/3/2003	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	USF Embassy Suites Hotel, 3705 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa
	Session 4: Discipline and IEP Connections.	5/1/2003	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	USF Embassy Suites Hotel, 3705 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa
<i>Special Registration for Session 3 and 4: Call Priscilla at (813) 837-7729</i>				
Pinellas	Socializing from the Inside Out. Session 4: Extending Social Opportunities. #1328	4/15/2003	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Panera Bread 2285 Ulmerton Road Largo
Polk	MedWaiver Workshop hosted by Reaching Autistic Children Early Support Group. #1385	5/22/2003	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Central Florida Speech and Hearing Clinic, 710 E. Bella Vista Street, Lakeland
Sarasota	Promoting Successful Behaviors. #1381	5/20/2003	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	1960 Landings Blvd., Blue Awning Bldg., Rm101 Sarasota
	Promoting Successful Behaviors. #1382	5/21/2003	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	1960 Landings Blvd., Blue Awning Bldg., Rm101 Sarasota
	Promoting Successful Indepen- dence. #1383	6/3/2003	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	1960 Landings Blvd., Blue Awning Bldg., Rm101 Sarasota
	Promoting Successful Indepen- dence. #1384	6/4/2003	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	1960 Landings Blvd., Blue Awning Bldg., Rm101 Sarasota
St. Lucie	Planning for Success. #1371	4/22/2003	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	FDLRS Conference Room 1901 S. 11th Street Ft. Pierce
	Planning for Success. #1372	4/23/2003	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	FDLRS Conference Room 1901 S. 11th Street Ft. Pierce

County	Training	Date	Time	Location
St. Lucie	Functional Communication Strategies. #1373	5/6/2003	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	FDLRS Conference Room 1901 S. 11th Street Ft. Pierce
St. Lucie	Functional Communication Strategies. #1374	5/7/2003	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	FDLRS Conference Room 1901 S. 11th Street Ft. Pierce

Workshops in Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and St. Lucie Counties require CARD registration. See page #7.

Workshop Descriptions

Discipline and IEP Connections

This workshop provides information about the links between discipline policies, functional assessment and positive behavior support.

Getting What You Need for Your Child

In this workshop, families will be provided information on the services, supports, strategies, and programs they can access to support their young child with autism spectrum disorders.

Planning For Success

This training is for families with a family member with autism or related disability of any age. The training will assist families in planning for their family member's future. We will discuss a step by step process that parents can use as a tool to achieve set goals for their son or daughter. We will also be discussing the importance of teaming and tips on how to collaborate with others to assist in meeting dreams. Bring your ideas, visions and dreams and we can show you a way to put them in motion!

Plugging in the Curriculum

Participants will develop an understanding of the implications of curriculum and diploma options for ESE students

Functional Communication Strategies

Families will learn practical strategies and techniques that will facilitate the development of an individual's communication skills in everyday environments.

Promoting Successful Behaviors

Families will learn specific information and strategies for reducing their child's problem behavior and increasing their appropriate behavior. This will be an experiential, hands-on workshop in which families will be able to take home materials to use with their child.

Promoting Successful Independence

In this training, families will learn specific information and basic practical strategies for teaching their child how to function more independently. The focus will be on daily living skills such as eating, getting dressed, taking a bath, combing hair, brushing teeth, and washing hands. This will be an interactive, experiential workshop in which parents will have the opportunity both to learn the information and practice using it through role play.

Socializing from the Inside Out. Session 4: Extending Social Opportunities

Participants will develop a personal plan for extending their child's social skills and opportunities through peer and sibling supports, as well as addressing additional social needs through their child's IEP.

Support Strategies for Your Child's Transition to a New Classroom

Change is very difficult! In this workshop, families will learn about ways to support their child as they begin school or move to a new classroom.

Toilet Training

This workshop provides the basics of toilet training with an emphasis on how to help children who seem to be reluctant to participate.

New Training Series

In an effort to meet the most critical needs of families who have children with autism and related disabilities, CARD-USF is planning to provide a core training series to be offered throughout our catchment area. The series consists of five training modules that will be delivered on a monthly basis rotating throughout the region.

The trainings will address the following topics:

- Communication needs

- Behavioral challenges
- Social skills development
- Independent functioning skills
- Collaborative teaming with agencies.

This quarter, the training series will make its debut in St. Lucie and Sarasota counties. More counties will be added to the rotation schedule as the year progresses. It is CARD-USF's intention to ensure that training opportunities will be accessible for the majority of our families in our catchment areas.

Autism Society Meetings & Support Groups

Hillsborough

KIDDs (Keys for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities)

Time: 2nd Thursday (monthly), 7:00-9:00PM
Place: Call for location and RSVP
Contact: Phyllis Guthman, 813-677-0472 or Jean Reese, 813-661-3069

Asperger's Support Group of Hillsborough Co.

Time: 1st Thursday (monthly), 7:00-8:30PM
Place: Shriners Hospital Auditorium
Contact: Diane Wilson 813-974-6119

Grupo de Apoyo en Español

Hora: Por favor, llamen para obtener hora de reunion.
Lugar: Biblioteca de North Tampa, 8916 North Boulevard, Tampa
Llamen a: Cristina Muñoz, 813-974-2297 o 1-800-333-4530,x 42297

Indian River

Autism Support Group

Time: 2nd Thursday (every other month), 7:00PM
Place: Central Assembly Church, 6767 20th St. (SR 60), Vero Beach
Contact: Kelly Wilson, 561-770-1818

Lee

Southwest Florida Chapter #555

Time: 2nd Thursday (monthly), 7:00-9:00PM
Place: Pilgrim's Church, Daniels Rd. and Freshman Lane, Ft. Myers
Contact: Fran Swanson, 941-768-0723

Florida Autistic Society

Time: This group meets informally. Please call for meeting times.
Place: Ft. Myers area.
Contact: Katie Cullen, 941-433-4929

Adonis Autism Center of Southwest Florida

Time: 3rd Thursday (monthly), 7:00PM
Place: Bashaw home, 1456 Lynwood Avenue, Ft. Myers
Contact: Maureen Bashaw, 941-332-5395

Pinellas

Asperger's Support Group of Pinellas

Time: 3rd Tuesday (monthly), 6:30-8:00PM
Place: Morton Plant Mease Wellness Center, 32672 US Hwy 19 N, Palm Harbor
Contact: Diane Wilson, 800-333-4530 or 813-974-6119

Gulf Coast Chapter #134

Time: 2nd Wednesday (monthly), 7:00-9:00PM
Place: Abilities in Clearwater, 2735 Whitney Rd., Clearwater
Contact: Filomena MacDonald, 727-789-0082

Polk

Heart of Florida Autism Society

Time: Call for meeting time.
Place: Polk county area.
Contact: Angie Dawson, 863-294-6315

RACE (Reaching Autistic Children Early)

Time: 4th Thursday (monthly), 6:00-8:00PM
Place: Central FL Speech & Hearing Ctr, 710 E. Bella Vista, Lakeland
Contact: Families call Karla Dickson, 863-859-1477 x-328 or karlajoy@aol.com; dhailey16@hotmail.com

St. Lucie

Treasure Coast Autism Support Group

Time: Meets bi-monthly, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Place: The Community Center, 2195 SE Airoso Blvd., Port St. Lucie
Contact: Kim at 772-878-7603 or email lakamram@aol.com for meeting dates.

Sarasota

Asperger's Support Group of Sarasota

Time: Last Wednesday (monthly), 10:00-11:30AM
Place: 1960 Landings Blvd., Rm. 101 (blue awning), Sarasota
Contact: Diane Wilson, 800-333-4530 or 813-974-6119

Manasota Chapter #535

Time: 1st Thursday (monthly Sept-May), 6:30PM
Place: See <http://saraweb.com/MAS/> or call for location
Contact: Bob or Jamie, (941)-924-5881



Support Groups

Brief, But Important

Training and Conferences Outside of CARD

- The Family CAFE Conference is a free conference for individuals with special needs or disabilities and their family members. Please visit <http://www.familycafe.net/> for more information about the Family CAFE and the upcoming conference. You may also call them at (850) 224-4670 or (888) 309-CAFE. The conference will be taking place from May 30th through June 1st at the Hyatt Orlando in Kissimmee, Florida (please call 407-396-1234 for reservation information). Registration deadline is May 30th.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day-Tallahassee

- Date: April 10, 2003 Time: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
- Informational booths set-up on the 3rd floor Rotunda of the Capitol
- Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
- Barbeque in the Capitol Courtyard
- Speakers, Entertainment, and Much More!
- Please call (800) 580-7801 to RSVP by April 1, 2003.
- You must RSVP to attend the luncheon. The luncheon is free of charge, but requires a ticket. Tickets may be picked up at the FDDC booth on the 3rd floor of the Capitol beginning at 9:00 am the day of the event.

Sponsored by the:

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.

124 Marriott Drive
Suite 203

Tallahassee, Florida

(850) 488-4180

(800) 580-7801 (toll free)

<http://www.fddc.org>

for more information:

Visit Family Network on Disabilities web site at <http://fndfl.org> or call (800) 825-5736 to find out if there are any upcoming workshops in your county.

Walk F.A.R. for NAAR is coming and we need your help!

Mark your calendars! CARD-USF is helping organize the first annual Walk F.A.R. for NAAR event scheduled to take place this November. We are currently looking for volunteers who can dedicate some time, money, and resources to make this event successful. A board has been put together to oversee the activities.

Here's the list of committees you can volunteer on. Please contact the committee members directly if you would like to donate your time to promote this exciting event.

Walk Chairperson, Willy Benninghoff, autismwk@tampabay.rr.com

Co-Chair, Serena Samar, ssamar@fmhi.usf.edu

Public Relations Chair, Joyce Cotton, jeducotton@aol.com

Family Team Chair, Jean Reese jeanreese@myrapidsys.com

Database Management, Phyllis Guthman, pguthman@gte.net

Food and Refreshments Chair OPEN

Kick-Off Luncheon, Denise Provenzano Denise.Provenzano@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Sponsorship Chair, Robin Benninghoff autismwk@tampabay.rr.com

Walk Committee Chair, OPEN

Walk Day Site Manager, OPEN

Entertainment Chair, OPEN

Accounting, Akin Bakare Nikapharm@aol.com

Please contact Willy Benninghoff if you are interested in any of the open positions. Autismwk@tampabay.rr.com



RACE (Reaching Autistic Children Early)

Support Group in Polk County will be hosting a Med-waiver workshop on May 22, 2003 from 6:00 to 8:00PM. The training will take place at the Central Florida Speech and Hearing Clinic located at 710 East Bella Vista in Lakeland. Dave Guido from CARD will be presenting.

Policy for CARD Trainings

You must register prior to every training you wish to attend and provide contact information when you call.

The contact information will be used to let you know of any training changes or cancellations.

- Only registered participants will be guaranteed a copy of handouts on the day of training.
- Each person attending must have a separate registration.
- Need your name, phone number or E-mail.

You may register in one of the following ways:

1. E-mail registration information to card-usf@fmhi.usf.edu
2. Call 1-800-333-4530 with the information ready and leave a message.
3. Fax registration: 813-974-6115
4. Mail to: CARD-USF, MHC 2113A
Attention: Mary-Kay
13301 N. Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612

Autism Awareness Month 2003

Community Challenge 2003

Here's what YOU can do!

- In order to promote Autism Awareness month this coming April you are being offered the challenge of targeting ten businesses that you normally frequent (grocery store, convenience store, restaurant, public groups you may attend, hair salons, etc.).
- After you have targeted your ten groups, decide on how you are going to promote Autism Awareness. Here are some suggestions but be creative!
 - CARD brochure
 - Press packet
 - Poster to display in the store
 - Ribbons for the employees to wear throughout the month of April.
- During the month of April, target these ten businesses to promote Autism Awareness. You never know whom you may be reaching when you interact with people in the community!
- Any business that hangs a poster or has its employees wearing the ribbon throughout April will have the business name published in our upcoming newsletter. All you have to do is send us a picture of the poster or the employees wearing the ribbons, along with the name of the business to our address:
CARD-USF MHC 2113A, Attn: Serena Samar, 13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612-3899
- We also have literature and resources for schools if you would like to target schools. For more information, please contact Serena Samar at ssamar@fmhi.usf.edu, (813) 974-9880 or (800) 333-4530 extension 4-9880.



CARD Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

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