



*Florida's First Choice for Autism Support*

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities provides support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities.

*A Program of:*



UNIVERSITY of  
**SOUTH FLORIDA**

College of Behavioral & Community Sciences

13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33612  
CARD-USF, MHC 2113A

**Write to:**

**Call: 1-800-9-AUTISM**

<http://www.florida-card.org/map.htm>

**Find your local CARD center:**

**Want More Information?**

**Autism Awareness**

*for those who*

**PROTECT  
& SERVE**



# Interaction Tips to Improve Outcomes

This is created for law enforcement officers and other first responders, when interacting with Autism Spectrum Disorder or related disabilities.

- Have one-to-one interactions, if possible.
- Maintain a calm scene and demeanor.
- Reassure the person; let them know you're there to help, protect & keep them safe.
- Seek advice from a caregiver.
- Narrate your intended actions.
- Explain simply & slowly. **Do Not Overwhelm.**
- Move slowly and be predictable.
- One question or direction at a time.  
Wait for up to 30 seconds for a response.
- Minimize sensory overload (lights, loud sounds, crowds, etc.).
- Model the action or behavior you desire.
- Person may not recognize pain from any injuries; give them notice before physically checking.
- Give them space.
- If unsuccessful, keep trying different communication tools. Examples: Pen/Paper, Electronic Tablet, Yes/No, Communication Board, Drawings.
- **RESTRAINT IS A LAST RESORT.**