



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 and related disabilities.

A Program of:



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**



Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder

- They may be nonverbal or have a communication device
- They may not understand what you are saying
- They may say what they think you want to hear
- They may experience anxiety with your presence
- They may not respond to your presence
- They may also have other co-morbid medical conditions
- They may not understand your body language/facial expressions
- They may be attracted to shiny and bright things
- They may be attracted to water; They are prone to wander
- They are unique individuals

Suggestions

- Display calming body language, give person extra personal space
- Give extra time for the person to reply
- Be aware there is a high risk for elopement with no fear of real danger
- Very likely person has high anxiety and will display adverse, possibly aggressive, behavior. Use distraction or calming techniques for people who are anxious or aggressive
- Keep noise to a minimum. Low lights and always ask before you touch the person
- Each individual with autism is unique and may act or react differently
- The person may repeat your words/phrases/body language. Try using pictures, fill-in the blank questions, or yes/no questions