CARD Products & Visual Supports
CARD provides state of the art resources and information to Florida's families and professionals.

CARD Community Connections
This newsletter distributed two times a year and is available in our 14-county region of Florida.

What is CARD-USF? (video)
This brief video is an overview description of the support and assistance available through CARD-USF. http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/video/card_web.wmv

Reunion Hispana (14 MB Video)
Recently, CARD USF auspició su primera reunión Hispana para los constituyentes de CARD y sus familias. Les invitamos a ver algunas fotos en esta presentación que hemos preparado de este día especial. http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/video/July%205th%20version%20two.wmv

Walking the Walk
"Walking the Walk" is a brief multimedia presentation that illustrates one family's strategies for supporting their son in neighborhood and community settings. Photographs and perceptions illustrate the family's steps in creating positive support for their own family and others. http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/walk/index.html

Believe in One, Believe in All
This tutorial illustrates the experiences of a student with autism included in a third grade classroom, along with the reactions, feelings, and beliefs of his support team members and peers. http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/marthew.asp

We're All Friends in Different Ways
This presentation captures pictures and video from the 2007 Autism Awareness Month contest for teachers and classrooms. Meet the winning teachers and their students! http://learningcurve.fmhi.usf.edu/video/We're%20All%20Friends%20video.wmv

Visual Supports: Choosing the Right Tool for the Job
This tutorial provides a basic overview to the considerations and decisions that must be made when deciding to create a visual support such as a personal schedule, a calendar or a social script for your child. Learn the foundations for constructing a visual support that will suit your child's needs and learning style. http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/video.asp

In addition to CARD's trainings, direct assistance, technical assistance and project development, CARD-USF is a resource both to families and professionals locally, and also around the world through our website.

CARD Web Resources
http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu

Please visit CARD's website for resources, links, online training modules, plus community activities and materials and resources in Spanish. From May 2006 - June 2007, there were 62,377 downloads, and 708,349 hits worldwide last year from the CARD website.

In addition to the main CARD website, CARD has created another site specifically for educators:

The CARD Learning Curve
This online resource provides interesting and interactive stories, ideas, resources and materials for teachers of students with autism or a related disability. http://learningcurve.fmhi.usf.edu/index.asp

Your donation matters in Southwest Florida to families living with autism. Please consider us in your giving plans. Give to CARD and give to the future.

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida (CARD-USF)
Florida's First Choice for Autism Support

Our Work
- Participate in state level Autism efforts to impact policy and services.
- Engage in individual consultations. Our staff offers families and professionals strategies or information on best practices to increase skill development or address behavioral concerns by observing the individual in natural settings, and collaborating with the person's team and family members to support appropriate services and supports.
- Consultations require a time commitment from all involved.
- Organize and conduct regional and statewide training events. Each year, regional workshops are organized on topics of great interest to families and school personnel.
- Organize and conduct training events. CARD-USF partners with community providers such as FDLRS, FIN, FND, NAMI and others to offer information on relevant topics for families and professionals.
- Maintain an active website. Families and professionals often access the web to gather information. Our website links to information and resources about autism and related disabilities, provides a list of training events, and other valuable information.
- The website is updated on a regular basis.
- Develop and disseminate materials. Some of these materials are available online; others are available on CDs, videotape or in writing.
- Develop and distribute a newsletter two times a year. The newsletter is available in our 14-county region of Florida.

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Welcome to The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities
The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida is a community-based project that provides information and training and assistance model. CARD-USF offers instruction and consultation to individuals diagnosed with autism based project that provides information and training modules, plus community activities and materials and resources in Spanish. From May 2006 - June 2007, there were 62,377 downloads, and 708,349 hits worldwide last year from the CARD website.

What makes a family resilient?
Our staff offers consultation to individuals diagnosed with autism and families with the knowledge and skills to support children and adults with autism and related disabilities. We also work with early intervention, schools, employers, and colleges and universities.
NUMBERS
Registry by Age:

- Total 2161
- 16 - 21 years: 335
- 5 - 16 years: 1348
- 3 - 5 years: 188

Total Registered Individuals: 2161
Related Disabilities: 43
Autism Spectrum Disorder: 2118
Individuals with disabilities, persons available to enhance the lifestyles of and quality of supports and services and programs that affect the range of technical assistance, and policy projects.
CARD-USF is housed within the Division of Applied Research & Educational Support (DARES) at the Department of Child & Family Studies (CFS), a department of the USF Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute. DARES is also home to a variety of research, training, technical assistance, and policy projects and programs that affect the range and quality of supports and services available to enhance the lifestyles of individuals with disabilities, persons who may be at risk, and their families.

Autism and Co-Existing Mental Health Disorders Conference
Nationally-respected clinicians and researchers presented information about mental health issues that are associated with an autism spectrum disorder, as well as, outlining the existing evidence-based interventions. We were pleased to have this opportunity to educate the community about the issues that families face each day.

Autism Community Leadership Award
The recipients of the 3rd Annual Community Leadership Award demonstrated a commitment to promoting positive attitudes and perceptions of autism through community education, programs, and awareness. This year’s recipients were recognized by their peers, families and friends at A Celebration of Partnerships, which took place in Tampa to honor the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department.

Fun and Friends
A collaborative project with the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department offering natural opportunities to facilitate and practice social skills development and promoting fun and friends through shared experiences.

Spring Egg Hunt
Over 300 individuals attended CARD’s Spring Egg Hunt at Freedom Playground in Tampa. The event attracted a wide range of children and families of different cultures, backgrounds, and abilities.

Hispanic Reunion
The First CARD-USF Hispanic Gathering provided a venue that allowed Spanish speaking families who are CARD-USF constituents to meet each other and spend a few hours sharing common experiences and interests. Through this event, the participants shared a sense of belonging and participated in an educational atmosphere where they shared the concerns of raising a child with autism, highlighting diversity aspects of having a different language, culture, and family support. Adults and children engaged in learning, activities, and fun games while also enjoying delicious Hispanic dishes that everybody brought to share in this fun, family afternoon.

Card-USF in its mission to support families and professionals to become educated, networked, and coordinated to create a welcoming community for ALL people. Call 813-974-2532 or e-mail card-usf@fmhi.usf.edu

Visual Strategies “Make and Tech” Workshop
CARD presented hands-on demonstrations of evidence-based visual strategies for working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, as well as, showcased local and state organizations that offer a variety of technological solutions to augment and assist communication. All of this was accomplished with a great degree of success measured by the participation of numerous collaborative partners, the number of attendees (263 families and professionals) and the satisfaction surveys completed by participants. If success is measured by leaving them wanting more, then we exceeded all expectations as comments ranged from, “when are you doing this again?” to “this should be an annual event!”

Kaleisia Family Development Project
In honor of the generous community spirit of Kim Pham and Lan Ha, the owners of Kaleisia Tea Lounge, CARD created the Kaleisia Family Development Project. The Kaleisia Project was established to provide funding for autism-specific training and educational development of families and individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Families and individuals can request stipends to attend trainings, educational programs, conferences and workshops.

Artist in Residence and Adult Retreat
A variety of programs and opportunities are offered specifically geared to support adults as they transition from school into post-secondary, employment or volunteer settings. In collaboration with VSA Arts of Florida, a group of budding artists participated in a series of art workshops to develop their talents with an artist in residence. An adult retreat took place on the campus of USF to explore career and college opportunities, as well as, provide the opportunity to build friendships and social skills.

Total Current Registry
- Autism Spectrum Disorder: 2118
- Related Disabilities: 43
- Total Registered Individuals: 2161

Registry by County:
- Charlotte: 59
- Hillsborough: 689
- Collier: 98
- Lee: 172
- Desoto: 4
- Manatee: 99
- Glades: 2
- Pasco: 242
- Hardee: 7
- Pinellas: 424
- Hendry: 10
- Polk: 209
- Highlands: 48
- Sarasota: 98
- Total: 2161

Training or Group Discussions
- Total number of training/discussions: 33
- Total number of individuals present: 998

Individual and Direct Family Assistance
- Total number of people on the registry or their families receiving individual assistance at least once during the 2nd Quarter of FY 2007-2008: 375
- Total individual assistance contacts delivered: 1,588
- Total number of individuals served: 2,749
- Total number of consultations: 618
- Total number of individuals served: 914

Public Education
- Total number of presentations: 8
- Total number of individuals present: 733

Mental Health Disorders
- Autism Spectrum Disorder: 2118
- Related Disabilities: 43
- Total Registered Individuals: 2161

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