Welcome

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
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Www.hscj.ufl.edu/pediatrics/autism

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Services to Families:

- Consultation: Individual Parent Training on communicating, behavior, and social skills
- Trainings, events, and workshops
- Referrals to service providers, funding sources, support groups, etc.
- Family support: counseling, support groups, and sibshops

Services to Schools:

- Consultation with educational professionals
- Technical assistance for functional behavioral assessment and behavior support plans
- Training events and workshops for educational professions (offering continuing education credit)
- FL DOE/CARD Teachers Partnership

Services to the Community:

- Awareness events pertaining to autism and related disabilities for local groups or agencies upon request
- Training event on topics pertaining to autism and related disabilities
- Annual statewide CARD conference
- Dissemination of informational materials on autism and related disabilities
**Support Groups**

My Support Jacksonville
Www.mysupportjax.com

Building the Puzzle Together
Autism Father Support Group:
12243 Joda Lane East
Jax, FL 32258
(786)205-5498 (Lou Cabrera)

Clay County Parent/Family Support Group
Middleburg/Clay Hill Library
2245 Aster Avenue
Middleburg, FL 32068
282-2495

GFCF Support Group
Christ Episcopal Church
400 San Juan Drive
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Pahtways Dev. Learning Ctr.
(Parent Support Group)
1100 Sawgrass Village Dr.,
Suite 201k
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
273-6700
Www.pathwaysdlc.com

Project Autism
109 Marsh Island Cir
St. Augustine, FL 32095
(904)234-6480
awareness@projectautismmj.org

Shotting Starz
Ketterlinus Gym
60 Orange St.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904)264-9981

Wrights Law
Www.wrightslaw.com

First Signs
Www.firstsigns.org

First Words Project
Www.firstwords.fsu.edu

Do 2 Learn
Www.dotolearn.com

Florida Inclusion Network
Www.floridianclusionnetwork.com

Interactive Collaborative Autism Network
Www.autismnetwork.org

Autism Internet Modules (AIM)
Www.autismininternetmodules.org

**Websites**

Autism Society of America
Www.autismsociety.org

Autism Speaks
Www.autismspeaks.org
(First 100 Days Kit)

Autism Link
Www.autismlink.com

Autism Watch
Www.autism-watch.org

Child Nett TV
Www.childnett.tv

Florida Outreach Project
Www.deafblind.ufl.edu

Organization or Autism Research
Www.researchautism.org

Central Florida Parent Center
Www.cflparents.org

Family Networks on Disabilities
Www.fndfl.org

Awareness@projectautismmj.org
What is CARD?
CARD is a community-based program providing assistance and supports to people with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities, their families, the professionals serving them, and the community. UF-JAX CARD was established by the Florida Legislature, and is funded by the Florida Department of Education, to provide free services and supports to eligible constituents throughout our five county service area.

Whom Does CARD Serve?
CARD serves children and adults of all levels of intellectual functioning who have autism spectrum disorder (including autism, Asperger’s, childhood disintegrative disorder, Rett’s Syndrome, or pervasive developmental disorders not otherwise specified); an autistic-like disability (documented on an evaluation that describes the characteristics that are being considered “autistic-like” by the evaluator); a dual sensory impairment; or a sensory impairment with other developmental disabilities. It is a requirement of the legislation, which created CARD, that we have documentation of qualifying diagnosis in order for an individual to receive our services. For children 0 to 5 years, we accept a pending developmental disability diagnosis with documented evidence of autistic-like behaviors or individuals awaiting a scheduled evaluation.

What Does CARD Do?
CARD is here as your source of information for autism related questions. The level of service depends upon the need. If you live within our catchment area, you can call UF-JAX CARD any time that you have a question that pertains to autism or related disability and one of our professional staff will try to respond to your question during a phone consultation. Most of the time questions can be answered within a day or two. When you call CARD, we will register you by placing you on our mailing list to receive our conference announcements, workshop flyers, and our weekly and quarterly newsletter. The mailing list is not shared with any other agency outside of CARD. Ever.

CARD is intended to be a short term service for most families, however, CARD is here as long as we are needed. We will work together to determine the level of services that are needed and the best method for providing them. You can call us as often as you need. We are here to be a source of information about autism and to provide answers to your questions. Our services reflect a wider range of support activities that can be provided to individuals, families, and agencies. Some of these support activities are of short duration while other are more intensive, long-term approaches for helping to build the capacity of families and agencies.
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What is Autism?
Autism is a lifelong neurological disability that affects a person’s ability to communicate, understand language, play and socially interact with others. The first signs of autism usually appear as developmental delays before age three. Autism is classified as a developmental disability because it interfered with the typical rate and patterns of childhood development.

What is Asperger’s Syndrome?
Asperger’s Syndrome (AS) is considered a pervasive developmental disorder at the higher functioning end of the autism spectrum. It is characterized by sustained impairment in social interaction and the development of restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, and activities. In contrast to autism, there are no obvious delays in language or cognitive development, or in age-appropriate self-help skills and adaptive behaviors though there are subtle impairments.

What is Pervasive Developmental Disorder—Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)?
The diagnosis PSS-NOS is usually given to an individual who does not meet the diagnostic criteria for any of the four other Pervasive Developmental Disorders, yet clearly shows unusual development in the areas of communication, social interaction and interests/attention. PDD-NOS is a neurological disorder, and symptoms can range from mild to severe. Often, individuals with a PDD-NOS diagnosis have more intact social skills than individuals diagnosed with other Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

Characteristics
- Difficulty in using and understanding language. Some children develop typical speech patterns until age two.
- Poorly developed social skills and unusual play with toys.
- Over or under sensitivity to sound, sight, taste, touch, or smell.
- Repetitive behaviors such as spinning objects or rocking.
- Certain behaviors exhibited to stimulate the senses, such as switching a light on and off repeatedly, or humming loudly.
- Difficulty with changes to surroundings or routines.
- Very high levels of activity for long periods of time.
- Uneven skill development. Some skills are normal or superior for their age while others show significant delay.
- Challenging behaviors such as aggression, self injury or severe withdrawal.

Causes
Nobody knows what causes autism. Some scientists believe there is a biological cause that affects the working of the brain, but this has not been proven. It is possible there are many factors that could interact with one another which could cause different characteristics in each individual with autism. Parents do no cause autism. No factors in a child’s experiences or in parenting styles are responsible for autism.