



*Happy  
Holidays*

*& Happy New Year*

*to you!*

**FAU**

**CENTER FOR AUTISM AND  
RELATED DISABILITIES**

Florida Atlantic University

**FAU CARD Spring 2017 Newsletter**

Executive Director’s Message

Dear CARD Families,

Bullying of students with autism can take many forms, all of them bad. We see students physically bullied, punched, pushed around and even injured while others are subject to unrelenting emotional bullying from one student or even from groups of students. An increasing trend is for students to be bullied over the Internet or with their cell phones. Each form is harmful and makes the kinds of progress we hope for in social capacity so much more difficult.

FAU CARD staff have been busy recently hosting a series of three Anti-Bullying Focus Groups and two Anti-Bullying presentations. For the focus groups, we did one group in Delray, another on the FAU Jupiter campus and a third at the Indian River State College in Port St. Lucie. We invited students at the middle and high school levels who had been bullied and their parents to meet with us and discuss their experiences with having been bullied. We had a great turnout for each of these events. We divided the participants up into separate groups for middle and high school and then the parents into corresponding parent groups. We audio recorded the comments in response to a series of questions about their experience with bullying.

We did this for two purposes. First was to allow us at CARD to more fully understand what is happening in these bullying situations so that we can better support students and their families when a bullying situation arises. The second purpose was for research that we will share with the wider autism academic and intervention community. The information we obtained will help immensely in achieving both of these objectives. Right now, we are in the process of analyzing the many hours of audio taped material and pages and pages of notes.

We had two other bullying events. Dr Sameer Hinduja, a professor at FAU and internationally recognized expert on cyber bullying, spoke at the FAU Jupiter campus. Students using electronic media to bully each other has become, sadly, more and more popular. Parents should stay alert to what their children are doing with their phones and on their computers. On November 17, we had Dr. Susan Limber from Clemson University speak both at the FAU Jupiter Campus and at our Boca Campus. Dr. Limber is one of the top experts on bullying worldwide. She gave a great summary of how extensive bullying is and discussed some of the special problems it presents for students who are on the autism spectrum.

All of this and more was possible due to the generosity of a special friend of FAU CARD. I want to offer a special word of thanks to the sponsor of these events, Mr. Craig Donoff, an estate attorney practicing in Boca Raton. Craig and his family have been long-term supporters of our autism efforts here and we are very grateful to them.

Jack Scott  
Executive Director

FAU CARD CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL TRAININGS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE

JANUARY

- JAN 12 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation - Boca Raton Campus
- JAN 12 Adult Social Group - Treasure Coast
- JAN 13 Little Owls Early Intervention Initiative
- JAN 13 Executive Functioning
- JAN 17 Community Developmental Screening Clinic
- JAN 23 Adult Social Group - Boca Raton
- JAN 26 Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Services
- JAN 26 Hangout Group - Dinning and Dating with Etiquette

FEBRUARY

- FEB 2 Destination Preschool
- FEB 2 Staying Connected
- FEB 3 Theory of Mind and Reading Comprehension
- FEB 6 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation - Boca Raton Campus
- FEB 8 Autism Speaker: Alex Plank
- FEB 9 Little Owls Early Intervention Initiative
- FEB 9 Adult Social Group - Treasure Coast
- FEB 10 Opening the Social Circle
- FEB 20 Adult Social Group - Boca Raton
- FEB 22 Navigating School Choice
- FEB 23 Hangout Group - Speed Interviewing
- FEB 23 IEP Series: Your Guide to an IEP that Works

MARCH

- MAR 2 Supporting Reading Comprehension at Home
- MAR 7 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation - Boca Raton Campus
- MAR 9 Adult Social Group - Treasure Coast
- MAR 11 Wings of Hope
- MAR 20 Adult Social Group - Boca Raton
- MAR 21 Community Developmental Screening Clinic
- MAR 23 Caring for the Caregiver
- MAR 23 Autism Speaker: Liane Holliday-Willey
- MAR 23 IEP Series: Rights and Responsibilities
- MAR 27 Relationship Safety

APRIL

- APR 1 Family Connections Conference
- APR 10 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation - Boca Raton Campus
- APR 13 Autism Speaker Series: John Miller
- APR 13 Adult Social Group - Treasure Coast
- APR 17 Adult Social Group - Boca Raton
- APR 20 Jupiter iRISE<sup>2</sup> Mentor Orientation
- APR 27 IEP Series: Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences

MAY

- MAY 5 FAU CARD Mental Health Conference
- MAY 10 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation - Boca Raton Campus
- MAY 15 Adult Social Group - Boca Raton
- MAY 16 Community Developmental Screening Clinic

JULY

- JUL 24-25 Summer Academy



## Director's Update

Dear CARD Families,

We hope you had a smooth transition to the new school year. It is hard to believe that once again, we are approaching the holidays. It has been a very busy and productive fall at FAU CARD!

FAU CARD organized a very well attended **Transition Conference on Friday, September 30th**. The keynote speaker was Scott Badisch, President and CEO of the Autism Society of America. Scott shared from a professional and parent perspective, the importance of beginning the post-secondary education and employment transition process early. Additionally, Elsa DeGoias from Career Source; Joe and Craig Eppy, from the Eppy Group and Richard Friedkin from Gulfstream Goodwill provided an update on new initiatives at Career Source, and the importance of financial and benefits planning.

Through a generous donation from Craig Donoff, P.A., FAU CARD was able to bring Dr. Susan Limber to our community, to provide two presentations, one afternoon presentation on the FAU Jupiter campus and an evening presentation on the Boca Campus. Dr. Limber is a noted international authority on bullying and an Olweus distinguished award winning professor from Clemson University. Dr. Limber shared with the community a systemic approach to address bullying, supporting the targeted child, while instructing the bully.

We were also fortunate to provide a training on **Cyberbullying** by our own FAU Criminology professor and national expert in cyberbullying, Dr. Sameer Hinduja. Dr. Hinduja spoke to an involved group of professionals, family members and community representatives at the FAU Jupiter campus on September 28th providing an overview of cyberbullying, its impact and the innate vulnerabilities young people with autism experience.

In addition to the Anti-Bullying initiative and research, FAU CARD launched its **Little Owls Comprehensive Parent Training Program** for parents and caretakers of young children recently identified with autism or in the diagnostic assessment process. The Little Owls program is a three-day parent training program offered through a generous gift from the Taft Foundation. The program provides parents with strategies for dealing with challenging behaviors, tips for enhancing social communication, advocacy, resources, benefits and more. Please contact Wanda Baldwin at [baldwinw@fau.edu](mailto:baldwinw@fau.edu) for additional information and the upcoming Little Owls program near you.

I am happy to share that the Mangurian Foundation again funded FAU CARD for the **Autism Community Speakers Series**. The following upcoming presenters have been scheduled: **February 8th Alex Plank**, from Wrong Planet, at the FAU Jupiter Campus; **March 23rd, Liane Holiday Wiley** will be sharing her female perspective at the St. Lucie School District Board Meeting Room; and **April 13th** our own **John Miller** will be presenting at the FAU Boca Campus.

FAU CARD has also sponsored two exciting PEPSA events this fall with a new upcoming event on February 3rd. Dr. **Brenda Smith Myles** presented on **October 21st** at the St. Lucie School District Board Room on brain research, differences in the brain of individuals with autism and the implications of this information on teaching strategies and interventions for children and youth with autism. **December 9th**, award winning author and psychologist, **Dr. Lee Wilkinson** presented to a large crowd of professionals, family members and community on the research of self-regulation and strategies for teaching self-regulation to children and youth. The use of self-regulation skills is critically important in the managing of stress, anxiety and depression for youth and adults with autism. Our next PEPSA event on **February 3, 2017** with **Dr. Dawn Holman**, psychologist and

BCBA, Executive Director of the Autism Spectrum Consultants, Inc. in San Diego, will explore the relationship between Theory of Mind and Reading Comprehension. Dr. Holman will provide strategies to increase social inferential skills and reading comprehension for those with autism.

FAU CARD has many upcoming exciting events. Additionally, mark your calendar for our **Family Connections Conference on Saturday, April 1st; Mental Health Conference on Friday, May 5th; and Summer Academy on Monday, July 24th and Tuesday, 25th**. Please see the FAU CARD training and event calendar on the FAU CARD website ([www.autism.fau.edu](http://www.autism.fau.edu)) for additional offerings.

We hope to see you at the **24th Annual State CARD Conference, January 20th-22nd** in Orlando. Please visit the conference website at <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/CARDconference/> for details.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming **FAU CARD Wings of Hope Event on Saturday, March 11th** at the Club at Boca Pointe in Boca Raton. This event is an important fundraising event for FAU CARD. We hope we can count on your support.

Thank you for all your support of FAU CARD. We appreciate all you do!

I hope to see you at some of our events.

*Maryellen Quinn-Lunny, Ed.S.*  
Director





**Cathy Allore**  
 Clinical Support Specialist  
 callore@fau.edu  
 Phone: 772-873-3367

**Noelle Balsamo**  
 Clinical Support Assistant Director  
 nbalsamo@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-212-4930

**Veronica Castro**  
 Clinical Support Specialist  
 castrov2014@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-213-8881

**Darius Murray**  
 iRISE2 Mentoring  
 Program Coordinator  
 dmurra23@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-213-6936

**Alexandria May**  
 iRISE2 Assistant  
 Program Coordinator  
 amay8@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-212-8094

**Maryellen Quinn-Lunny**  
 Clinical Support Director  
 mqlunny@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-221-3436

**Mercedes Pagano**  
 Coordinator Information  
 & Publication Services  
 paganom@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-212-8058

**Rosemary Portera**  
 Clinical Support Specialist  
 r.portera.vaughn@fau.edu  
 Phone: 772-873-3422

**Jennifer Percival**  
 Clinical Support Specialist  
 for Transition  
 jpollack@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-212-4203

**Susanna Launder**  
 Clinical Support Specialist  
 slaunder@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-212-2859

**Don Lawless-Coker**  
 Grants Coordinator  
 dcoker@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-297-4016

**Miriam Moreno-Duany**  
 Clinical Support Specialist  
 mmorenoduany@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-235-9342

**Kelley Bastien**  
 Clinical Support Specialist  
 bastienk@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-235-8412

**Alison Bourdeau**  
 Clinical Support Specialist  
 abourdeau@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-990-9518

**Wanda Baldwin**  
 Clinical Support Specialist  
 for Early Intervention  
 baldwinw@fau.edu  
 Phone: 561-245-1792

**THE**  
**Meet**



**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**  
 CARD

FAU CARD

**Little Owls**

Early Intervention Initiative



FAU CARD's Little Owls Early Intervention Initiative is a 3-day training for parents, grandparents, and family members of infants, toddlers and preschoolers (18 months - 5 years old) with autism spectrum disorder(ASD) or a related disorder. Families that are in the process of exploring a diagnosis of ASD are also welcome. The goal of Little Owls trainings is to prepare families to be active participants in a child's positive developmental growth. They will discover how to promote learning, communication and social engagement. Family members will become more confident as they learn about selecting therapies, advocacy and understanding benefits. A special emphasis is placed on educating families on how to keep children with ASD safe. Because parents play a central role in the life of a child, parent support and self-care is an important theme of the training.



### Want to Learn More?

To learn more about the FAU CARD's Little Owls Early Intervention Initiative contact:

Wanda Baldwin, LCSW  
 Early Intervention Specialist  
 561.245.1792  
 baldwinw@fau.edu



### Little Owls Training:

**Date:** Jan 13, 14, 15  
**Time:** 9 - 4 p.m.  
**Location:** FAU MacArthur Campus  
 5353 Parkside Dr.  
 Jupiter, FL 33458  
<https://janjupiter2017littleowls.eventbrite.com>

### Little Owls Training:

**Date:** Feb 9, 10, 11  
**Time:** 9 - 4 p.m.  
**Location:** The Hope Center for Autism  
 1695 Southeast Indian Street  
 Stuart, FL 34994  
<https://littleowlsstuartfeb.eventbrite.com>

**Little Owls will offer you practical and effective parenting strategies to equip you to deal with:**

- Challenging behaviors
- Improving social communication
- Advocacy
- Benefits my child may be eligible for



## TRIUMPH KIDS GRAND OPENING

FAU CARD would like to welcome Triumph Kids to the community. Their Grand Opening was on December 17th, 2016. Triumph Kids is a 5,500 square foot gym, fully equipped with zip lines, trampolines, swings and more. The gym is designed to give all kids the opportunity to develop coordination, balance, discipline, and most of all, to let them experience small triumphs through play.

Triumph Kids is the brainchild of loving parents, Randy and Chrissy Maale who are proud parents of 5-year-old twins, Jacob and Noah. In 2013, both kids were diagnosed with ASD. Randy, a retired local police officer and Christine, a Physical Therapist decided a year ago that community was the key to success for Jacob and Noah, "we wanted to provide a place not just for our boys but for all in the community to come and be victorious." Triumph Kids was born out of love for their children and a desire to engage all families.

Triumph Kids mission is to provide kids of various ages and needs a winning edge in life, in an environment where they can laugh, learn, explore and grow. Triumph Kids offers a holistic approach to developmental learning through sensory play, art class, gym and tumbling fun class, triumphant movers class, music therapy, kid's yoga, martial arts, and various play and social groups. Triumph Kids is partnering with many well-known service leaders in our community to provide much-needed services. One of those partnerships will be with PBS Kids for the social groups.

More than the open play and classes it offers, what sets Triumph Kids apart is their ability to provide one-to-one therapy. It is a full-service therapy center that provides Speech, Occupational and Physical therapy to help children and families in addressing developmental delays and reaching their individual goals through therapy and fun.

Triumph Kids will be the first in Palm Beach County to have a MSE (Multi-Sensory Environment) room designed and built by Southpaw, the leader in MSE room design for over 20 years. Come check out the newest and largest gym and therapy center in northern Palm Beach County located at 9840 Alternate A1A Suite 402, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 or call 561-906-8674.

## GIRLS WHO CODE

FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities is proud and excited to announce the newest development in our iRISE2 Mentoring Program, a collaboration with Girls Who Code. Girls Who Code is a nation-wide organization that embodies and promotes the skills of young females interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education. This new iRISE2 all girls site-based STEM mentoring program is intended to begin in February of 2017. Participants in this program will have the opportunity to engage with peers who compliment their interests while learning about the core concepts of computer science as it relates to music, art or video games. Protégé's will have the ability to meet female engineers and develop a skill that may lead to gainful employment in today's growing technology world.

This is a **FREE FAU CARD** program and is open to young females who are:

- Registered with FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
- Accepted into the iRISE2 Mentoring Program
- Living in the Palm Beach County area
- Between the ages of 15 -22
- Able to communicate and reciprocate meaningful conversation
- Motivated and express interest in STEM education or careers
- Able to participate 2-3 hours a month, for 10 calendar months

## FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™

### iRISE<sup>2</sup> MENTORING PROGRAM



Are you interested in being mentored?

Are you registered with FAU CARD?

Are you a girl between the ages of 15-22?

Want to work at a tech company?

# GET YOUR START WITH A GIRLS WHO CODE CLUB!

**Please Contact:** Darius Murray at 561-213-6936 or [dmurra23@fau.edu](mailto:dmurra23@fau.edu)

Girls Who Code Clubs are **FREE** programs for 15-22 years old girls to explore coding in a fun and friendly way!

[www.autism.fau.edu](http://www.autism.fau.edu)



## TIPS FOR A MORE ENJOYABLE FAMILY GATHERING

By: Butterfly Effects Clinical Team

As we approach the holidays, many families will be having gatherings and celebrations. Family gatherings are exciting, but for families of children on the autism spectrum it presents special challenges as their daily routine is disrupted. These gatherings may be stressful, as they may have a hard time processing loud sounds or being in crowded areas. Below are a few tips to help guide you through the holiday season to help make it a more joyous family gathering for the person on the autism spectrum.



1. **Create a schedule.** A schedule of activities will provide predictability in this setting. Let your child know what the day will look like, and when it will be time to go home.
2. **Find a quiet space for the child to retreat.** Try to find a quiet space in the home where your child can go if they need to leave the area. Take familiar toys and activities with you that you know will help soothe them.
3. **Review the rules of visiting other homes.** If there are certain rules you need your child to follow while at someone else's house, let them know what these rules and expectations are ahead of time. You can also practice following these rules ahead of time. If you know there may be expectations that are more challenging for your child, ask your BCBA to work on these skills with you and your child in the weeks leading up to the holiday gathering.
4. **Create a Social Story for your child.** Social Stories are to help teach social skills to people on the autism spectrum. They are short descriptions of a particular situation, event, or activity, which include specific information about what to expect in that situation and why. These are another great way to prepare your child for the Holiday gathering to let them know what they should and should not do at a guest's house, or when they have company at their house. These stories can be made on the computer, or they can be hand written and drawn.



## Executive Functioning

This training will cover the basics of Executive Functioning, and how this may present in individuals with ASD.

Examples will be discussed and strategies for individuals and families will be presented. The training will be offered onsite (location TBA) or online via Adobe Connect. A link to the online training will be sent out to the provided email one day prior to the event. For more information, please contact Alison Bourdeau at [abourdeau@fau.edu](mailto:abourdeau@fau.edu)



**FRI**  
**JAN**  
**13**  
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

<https://efandasd2.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday Jan 11, 2017.

## Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Services



Vocational Rehabilitation is offering new transition services for students! Come find out about VR's new STAR (Student Transition Activity Record) program! Also, learn about other pathways to VR services and how to best coordinate services with your VR Counselor.

For more information please contact Jennifer Percival at [jpollack@fau.edu](mailto:jpollack@fau.edu)

**THUR**  
**JAN**  
**26**  
2- 3:30 p.m.

FAU Jupiter Campus, EC 201

To attend this training *on campus or online*, register at:

<https://vrtransitionservices.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.





The Eppy Group is a unique team of financial planners dedicated to helping families with special needs. Questions can be submitted to [c.eppy@eppygroup.com](mailto:c.eppy@eppygroup.com) or by calling 954-271-7888.

**Is your child approaching the age of 18? Do you realize you are going to lose your parental authority?**

A guardian is a surrogate decision-maker appointed by the court to make either personal and/or financial decisions for a minor or for an adult with mental or physical disabilities. Typically, this would be a disability that is expected to span the lifetime of the individual.

In Florida, there are three types of guardianships:

- 1. Plenary
- 2. Limited
- 3. Advocacy

The first two were originally set up to protect the elderly and can be quite effective in accomplishing that goal. The problem is that those forms of guardianship were not created to protect those with cognitive disabilities. Fortunately, the Florida legislature enacted Guardianship Advocacy statute 393.12. This form of guardianship is specifically designed to protect those under the age of 65 with cognitive issues. The costs of Advocacy are generally much less and certainly less complex.

To file advocacy, one needs a letter from the doctor detailing the situation of the impaired person. There is still a hearing but not nearly as cumbersome and this is not an incapacitation hearing. Retaining an attorney (although often a good idea) is no longer required for this filing in the state of Florida. At the hearing a decision can be made as to which rights will remain and which will be assigned to the guardian. For example; one could take the health, living and financial responsibilities while leaving the right to vote and marry. As you can see, this form of guardianship has its real advantages. Please keep in mind that if you are a non-natural parent, in order to be a Guardian, you will need to prepare with some required training.

The exact statute is printed below:  
Developmental Disabilities - Guardian Advocate - Florida Statute 393.12

*A petition for guardian advocate may be executed by an adult person who is a resident of Florida. The petition must allege that a person with developmental disabilities needs a guardian advocate and lacks the ability to meet at least some of the essential requirements for his/her health or safety. The court sets a hearing date, counsel is appointed for the person with developmental disabilities and all interested persons are noticed of the hearing. At the hearing, the court shall receive and review all reports relevant to the person's disabilities. If the court finds that the person requires the appointment of a guardian advocate, the court shall enter a written order. Said order shall contain the findings of fact and conclusion of law. The order shall specify the exact powers and duties of the guardian advocate. Once the order is entered, the guardian advocate shall have the same powers and responsibilities required of a guardian under Florida Statute 744.*

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**Let's Get Organized**  
**Strategies for Helping Students with Organization & Using a Planner**

Please join us for an informative training that will cover strategies on how to get and keep students organized. This demonstration will cover the use of picking a planner and using it effectively, how to organize a student's backpack, and general tips on how to remain organized as the school year progresses. Students can follow along with their planner or backpack.

*\*This class is limited to individuals registered with FAU's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. This class focuses on individuals ages 11-22 years old.*

For more information please contact Alexzandria May at [amay8@fau.edu](mailto:amay8@fau.edu)

### Weekly Planner

Month Week of Year

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

To Do

List

Notes

Watch for this posting!



**THUR FEB 2**  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

## Destination Preschool: What Parents Need to Know About Transitioning to School-Age Services

This training is best suited for Palm Beach County parents of children with special needs who are under the age of 5. Participants will be given valuable information regarding the Transition Process for the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Pre-Kindergarten Program within the School District of Palm Beach County. Participants will learn about ESE Parent Support Services, Procedural Safeguards, Child Find Referrals, ESE Evaluations, the Individual Education Plan (IEP), Eligibility Determination and Placement at an ESE Pre-K Program or an ASD Charter School. If you require any additional information about this training, please contact the presenter: Kelley Bastien, 561-235-8412 or bastienk@fau.edu

**FAU Jupiter Campus, College of Education**

To attend this training *on campus or online*, register at:

**<https://destinationpreschool-trainingforparents.eventbrite.com>**

*Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2017.*

## Staying Connected



Staying connected and maintaining a social rapport with friends and family can be a challenge, especially as we encounter the convenience of digital technology. Staying connected is how we keep our friends and family informed, enhance relationships and build our social circles. This workshop will focus on the importance of staying connected with family and peers and how individuals can work together to help develop strategies that will not only influence friendships but promote strong community social and vocational relationships. This workshop is intended for youth and teens between the ages of 12 – 18, who struggle with staying connecting with friends or building strong social relationships.

**THUR FEB 2**  
11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

**FAU Boca Raton Campus, College of Education, Room 411**

To attend this training *on campus or online*, register at:

**<https://stayingconnectedwithpeers.eventbrite.com>**

*Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2017.*



### FAU CARD Jupiter, Florida

## THEORY OF MIND AND READING COMPREHENSION

HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND SOCIAL INFERENTIAL DEFICITS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO READING IN CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM?

Presented by: Dawn Holman, Ph.D. Hosted by: FAU CARD

**February 3, 2017**

9:00 am – 4:30 pm  
Registration begins at 8:30 am

*\*6 ASHA, Social Work, Mental Health,  
M&F, BCBA CEUs will be available  
(\$75 pre-registration; \$90 onsite)*

**FAU Jupiter MacArthur  
Campus**

Administrative Bldg. - Auditorium  
5353 Parkside Drive  
Jupiter, FL 33458

### Registration Information:

**REGISTRATION IS  
MANDATORY**

**DEADLINE: January 31, 2017**  
**Limited to first 250 participants**

To view this presentation onsite or  
online, register online at:  
<http://dawnholman.eventbrite.com>

For more information, contact:  
[CARD@fau.edu](mailto:CARD@fau.edu) or 561-297-2023

### Directions:

For directions click [HERE](#)

*Be sure to contact your ESE District Staff or  
Staff Development Contact to determine the  
process for receiving in-service.*

*\*6 ASHA, Social Work, Mental Health,  
M&F, BCBA CEUs will be available  
(\$75 pre-registration; \$90 onsite)*

### About the Presenter

Dr. Holman is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, doctoral level. She received her BA in Psychology from UCLA, where she worked with Dr. Ivar Lovaas for the Young Autism Project from 1991-1993. Dr. Holman is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with a Masters in Clinical Psychology. She received her Doctorate in Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology from USC in 2003 where her research in the area of reading comprehension and autism won her a dissertation of merit award. It also gave her the opportunity to give the key-note address at the graduation ceremony. Dr. Holman has worked in the field of behavioral therapy for over 20 years, as a clinician and Executive Director of Autism Spectrum Consultants, Inc in San Diego. Dr. Holman has presented both nationally and internationally for a variety of institutions such as the Autism Society of America, the California Association of Behavior Analysts and the International Association of Behavior Analysts at their annual conventions. She has presented workshops and in-services for both private and non-profit organizations around the world.

### Training Description

Students on the autism spectrum can often present as proficient readers, especially in the early elementary grades. By the time they reach 2nd or 3rd grade however, deficits in reading comprehension begin to become more apparent. One possible explanation for this is actually due to a more global deficit in comprehension, specifically in social inferential comprehension. The Theory of Mind deficit that was identified in even the highest functioning children on the spectrum in the 1980's is still the leading explanation. To have a Theory of Mind is to be able to attribute mental states to oneself and others. Simply put, it is the ability to take someone else's perspective. If perspective taking abilities are deficient in the "real world", they may serve to explain why there are reading comprehension deficits that often plague our students when it comes to understanding emotions, cause and effect, making predictions and inferences within a text.

### Training Objectives

This presentation will offer a thorough explanation of Theory of Mind, reading comprehension and offer suggestions on how to teach requisite skills in order to help students become better social inferential comprehenders – and readers!



*"Theory of Mind and Reading Comprehension" is offered for up to 6 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area)*



Regional Trainings are hosted by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, through the Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA), a program funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, K-12 Public Schools.



## TIPS FOR PURCHASING GIFTS FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD

By: Butterfly Effects Clinical Team

The holidays are right around the corner and that typically involves giving and receiving gifts. When picking out gifts and toys for children on the autism spectrum think about products that will promote family engagement. Look for gifts that require more than one person to play. Games that have a fun, or unpredictable result are a great idea. For these types of games, let your child know that to play these games they need to have a play partner. This will provide opportunities to practice turn taking skills, and prevent repetitive play with the toy. Another great gift idea is any toy that has multiple pieces so that the child has opportunities to practice requesting while assembling the toy or game. Rocket balloons, popup games that require turn taking, big parachutes, and favorite character memory card games are some fun ideas. Talk with your BCBA for additional ideas for your child that could be incorporated into therapy over the next several months. Also, you can check out the link below for toy ideas.

<http://m.toysrus.com/shop/index.jsp?categoryId=3261680>



### INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

At Florida Atlantic University (Jupiter or Boca), we are conducting research with children ages 4 to 8 who have been diagnosed with Autism spectrum disorder, as well as children who have not been diagnosed with this disorder. The goal of the study is to see whether children recognize emotions of their mothers more than of an unknown female. We want to see if this relates to a specific emotion as well as to see if the results differ from a child with autism compared to a child who does not have autism. We are looking for children ages 4 to 8 as well as their mothers to participate in this research study. There will be two sessions lasting about an hour to an hour and a half each, both sessions will be conducted either at your home or a Developmental lab at Florida Atlantic University. During the first session, we will use an EEG, electroencephalogram, machine to collect brain wave recordings of your child. We will take pictures of the child's mother making different faces corresponding to different emotions to use during the next session. During the second session, your child will complete an emotion recognition task where the goal is to select the facial expression that best matches the indicated emotion. Once we have completed the task your child can then select a toy of their choice from our collection! Please contact Nate Shanok if you are interested in participating and learning more about your child's emotional development. He can be contacted at 847-942-3543.

## Autism Speaker Series

*The FAU CARD Autism Lecture Series is made possible by a grant from The Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation and we gratefully acknowledge their contribution to educating the public about autism.*

**February 8, 2017  
6 - 8 p.m.**

**FAU Jupiter Campus,  
ADM Auditorium**

**Alex  
Plank**



### About Alex Plank:

Alex Plank is the 30 year old guy with autism behind WrongPlanet.net, the incredibly popular site for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome and Autism. Both Alex and Wrong Planet have been featured by CNN, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, and Good Morning America. Wrong Planet has more than 100,000 registered members and its discussion forums contain millions of messages.

Alex graduated from George Mason University with a degree in Film and Video Studies. His areas of interest and expertise include public speaking, the Internet, writing, directing, and filmmaking. He lives in Beverly Hills, California.

Alex runs, owns, and develops WrongPlanet.net, a popular community for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome and Autism which he started in his teen years after being diagnosed at the age of 9. Alex serves as the consultant to the lead actress & creators of FX's hit TV series The Bridge.

Alex's feature documentary film Shameful, which he shot in France along with Noah Trevino, is coming out soon.

**Register:** <https://alex-plank.eventbrite.com>



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# Opening the Social Circle

## Research and Interventions to Assist Adults to Socially Connect

This training will look at current research and interventions that pertain to adults with autism and the myriad of potential social challenges. Resources will be provided. The training will be offered onsite (location TBA) or online via Adobe Connect. A link to the online training will be sent out to the provided email one day prior to the event. For more information, please contact Alison Bourdeau at [abourdeau@fau.edu](mailto:abourdeau@fau.edu)



**FRI FEB 10**  
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

<https://socialcircle2.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2016.



## Navigating School Choice

Selecting your child's school is one of the most important decisions you can make as a parent. With so many options out there, public, private, charter and even homeschooling the decision making process can be a challenge. In this training, we will explore all of the options you have available to you and your child. We will also discuss what to look for and what to steer clear of when touring schools as well as what types of questions to ask. For more information please contact Susanna Launder at [slaunder@fau.edu](mailto:slaunder@fau.edu).

**WED FEB 22**  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FAU Boca Raton Campus, College of Education, Room 411

To attend this training on campus or online, register at:

<https://schoolnavigation2.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2017

## AUTISM ALERT SYSTEM COMES TO OKEECHOBEE!

By: Rosie Portera, M.S., CCC-SLP

The holidays are a crazy time of the year. We are so easily distracted by all the hoopla and individuals with autism are so easily overwhelmed. Okeechobee County has added an Autism Alert System to their Emergency Alert System. This is so great for two reasons:

- You have immediate, trained and comprehensive help if your child is one of the 49% of children with ASD who will attempt to leave their safe environment and wander. If you have a 7-10 year old with ASD, they are 8 times more likely to elope.
- As youth with ASD become more independent they are more likely to have an encounter with law enforcement. The stress from this may cause them to shut down or act unpredictably. These behaviors can be misinterpreted by the officer and the situation can easily escalate. If their information is in the alert system, officers will know exactly how to approach and communicate with them.

Autism Speaks has created the form that Okeechobee County is using to gather information about individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The information from the form will be added to the dispatchers' emergency alert system. You may access the form via this link: [https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/autism\\_elopement\\_alert\\_form.pdf](https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/autism_elopement_alert_form.pdf)

Okeechobee county residents should print it out and fill it in. You can return the form in two ways, 1) Drop it off at Okeechobee County's Emergency Operations Center, 707 Northwest 6th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or, 2) Scan and email it to Lt. Ryan Hathaway at: [rhathaway@co.okeechobee.fl.us](mailto:rhathaway@co.okeechobee.fl.us). There is nothing more important than keeping our kiddos safe. Please take this easy step that will help first responders in Okeechobee know how to meet the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

## Supporting Reading Comprehension at Home



This training will provide an introduction to the reading comprehension challenges children with ASD may face and discuss strategies caregivers can use to support this important skill development in the home. This training will be offered on-line. A link to access the training as well as related materials will be emailed out to registered participants prior to the training. For more information, please contact Noelle Balsamo at [nbalsamo@fau.edu](mailto:nbalsamo@fau.edu)

**THUR MAR 2**  
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

FAU Boca Raton Campus, College of Education, Room 411

To attend this training on campus or online, register at:

<https://readingcomprehensionathome.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on February 28, 2017.





FAU CARD is proud to introduce you all to Ms. Brianna Joseph (*Masters in Exceptional Student Education with a concentration area in Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis*). Brianna is currently a Doctoral student in the Department of Special Education at Florida Atlantic University. She has a dynamic background working with individuals with ASD ranging from being a former classroom teacher, job coaching young adults ages 18-22, to being a former Zumba instructor at the Dan Marino Center STEPs after school program in Broward County. Her passion lies in working with adolescents and adults with ASD.

As a young child, Brianna’s family relocated to the United States from Zimbabwe. Her parents chose to make this move to gain greater access to resources for their children, specifically her younger brother that has a disability. Brianna is not only aware but, familiar with the disparity in services and resources for individuals with disabilities in developing countries.

In January of 2017, Brianna will be traveling to Kenya with the Global Autism Project through their SkillsCorps Program to provide services for children and families with Autism. The mission of the Global Autism Project is to “promote the acceptance and integration of individuals with autism worldwide by training communities in culturally relevant, sustainable practices.” While in Kenya, Brianna will be providing professional development and support to local teachers, professionals, and community members. She will also be focusing her talents on fundraising, increasing awareness and outreach programs within the greater community with a focus on culturally relevant and sustainable practices. Brianna hopes to use this unique opportunity to enhance the skillset of professionals in the area while also gaining larger perspective of services available worldwide. She hopes to have deepened understanding of what else can be done to increase support and awareness for individuals with autism here at home as well. Brianna is fundraising for this exciting program. Her goal is to raise \$5,000. She has raised \$2,875 so far. She is approaching her deadline of meeting her goal to embark on an experience of a lifetime. All donations are tax-deductible and will pay for materials for the children, building maintenance, staff training, advocacy networks, and parent outreach programs. Every donation matters. Donations will contribute to the sustainability of providing services for families that have children with autism and will allow Brianna to be a part of this extraordinary opportunity.

If you would like to write a check, you can send the check to:  
Global Autism Project 252 3rd Avenue Brooklyn, NY, 11215  
*Checks can be made out to “global autism project” and include her name in the memo*  
[Click here](#) to donate to Brianna’s fundraiser. We look forward to sharing more with you on her journey and experience. For more information on the Global Autism Project, please visit [globalautismproject.org](http://globalautismproject.org)

Therapy Connection of the Treasure Coast offers teen social skills.

In collaboration with the  
FAU Center for Autism and  
Related Disabilities (CARD)

What is PEERS?

A social skills treatment group where teens learn how to make and keep friends.

Who can attend?

Teens in middle or high school (between 12 and 19 years old) who are diagnosed with high functioning Autism or Asperger Syndrome.

Why are parents involved?

The PEERS program is unique in its inclusion of a parent group, which is a requirement of the program, so that parents can provide support and coaching to their teen.

When will the group occur?

The treatment is 14 weeks in duration and will meet every Tuesday afternoon from 5:30-7:00 pm beginning January 10th and ending April 18th.

Where will the group occur?

Group will be held at Therapy Connection of the Treasure Coast St Lucie West office.

How much will it cost?

A charge of \$30/session, a total of \$450 for 14-week program.

This treatment  
program begins on  
January 10th, 2016

WINGS OF  
HOPE 2017

GIVING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES HOPE  
Live & Silent Auction, Cocktails, Formal Dinner, Music & Dancing

SATURDAY

MARCH 11 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.

the Club at Boca Pointe

7144 Boca Pointe Dr, Boca Raton, FL 33433  
Cocktail Attire / Black Tie Optional

HONORING  
Michele Weppner

FAU  
CENTER FOR AUTISM AND  
RELATED DISABILITIES  
Florida Atlantic University

<https://fauf.fau.edu/wingsofhope>  
Please register by Feb 11, 2017



# Autism Speaker Series

The FAU CARD Autism Lecture Series is made possible by a grant from The Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation and we gratefully acknowledge their contribution to educating the public about autism.

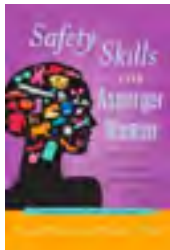
St. Lucie School  
District Board  
Room

March 23, 2017  
6 - 8 p.m.

Liane  
Holliday-  
Willey



Professor Liane Holliday Willey, who holds a doctorate in psycholinguistics, was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome when she was 35 years old. Since her diagnosis Liane has focused her academic research on female's with Asperger syndrome and communication skills for people on the spectrum.



Liane is the author of the new book *Safety Skills for Asperger Women: How to Save a Perfectly Good Female Life*, and the author of the international best selling books *Pretending to be Normal: Living with Aspergers Syndrome*, *Asperger Syndrome in Adolescence: Living with the Ups, the Downs and Things in Between*, *Asperger Syndrome in the Family: Redefining Normal*.

Liane has been featured in USA Today, The Associated Press, The New York Times, The LA Times, The Washington Post, Autism One Radio, Oxygen TV, several NPR stations and many other media outlets.



Register: <http://liane-holliday-willey2017.eventbrite.com>

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## Caring for the Caregiver



So often we forget about ourselves trying to help those that need us. But everyone deserves self-care. Just because you have a child with special needs, it does not mean that you are not worthy of love and caring for yourself. In this training, we will look at ways to manage your time, strategies for coping with caregiver stress, and the value of taking time for yourself. For more information please contact Miriam Moreno-Duany at [mmorenoduany@fau.edu](mailto:mmorenoduany@fau.edu).

THUR  
MAR 23  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FAU Boca Raton Campus, College of Education, Room 411

To attend this training on campus or online, register at:

<https://caregivermatters.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2017

## Relationship Safety

Come discover how to enjoy a relationship while also being safe at the same time. Participants will learn how to read social cues and understand communication related to healthy relationships.

For more information, please contact  
Veronica Castro at [castrov2014@fau.edu](mailto:castrov2014@fau.edu)

MON  
MAR 27  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

FAU Boca Raton Campus, College of Education, Room 411

To attend this training on campus or online, register at:

<https://relationshipsafety.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2016.



SAVE THE DATE

# Family Connections Conference



**SAT  
APR 1**  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

FAU Jupiter  
ADM Auditorium  
5353 Parkside Drive  
Jupiter, FL 33458

**Register: <https://family-connections-conference-2017.eventbrite.com>**

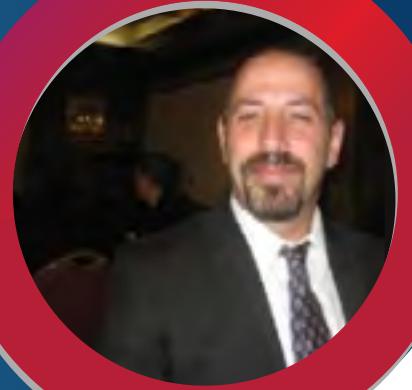
## Autism Speaker Series

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FAU Boca Raton  
Campus

April 13, 2017  
6 - 8 p.m.

John  
Miller



DECODING  
DATING  
MILLER

A GUIDE TO THE UNWRITTEN SOCIAL RULES OF DATING FOR MEN  
WITH HIGHLY FUNCTIONING AUTISM SPECTRUM AUTISM  
MILLER

John Miller was born in 1968 in Montreal, Quebec. As a child he dealt with many social and academic difficulties. After many struggles and hard work he graduated from high school in 1986. John completed a BA in Political Science from Florida Atlantic University. A few years later he decided to get a Masters in Special Education, in order to help those with special needs. By chance John started teaching students with autism. During this time he was diagnosed with Asperger's and began the long road of accepting his own diagnosis. Realizing the many difficulties and barriers he had faced throughout his life, he became a strong advocate for individuals on the spectrum. In 2010 he finished a manuscript based on his own life and teaching experiences titled, "The A Word: My Life With Asperger's and the World of Autism." In early 2011 he felt privileged to be invited to the Autism society of Florida's Board. Later in the year he was profiled in Autism Spectrum Quarterly. Presently, he is beginning a manuscript on dating and relationships for males with high functioning autism and Asperger's titled; Navigating the Minefield: A Dating and Relationship Guide for Males with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger's.

**Register: <http://john-miller.eventbrite.com>**



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# FAU CARD Mental Health Conference

8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Dr. Josh Nadeau, *Clinical Supervisor Rogers Behavioral Health -Tampa*  
**Differential Diagnosis-ASD and MH**

12 - 1:15 p.m.

**Lunch**

1:15 - 2:45 p.m.

**Medication Management**

2:45 - 4 p.m.

**Treating Individuals with ASD and MH**  
**Panel Facilitator:** Jack Scott, Ph.D., *Executive Director FAU CARD*  
**Panel Presentation:**  
Dr. Tim Tavis, *Clinical Psychologist, Private Practice*  
Dr. Aronson Ramos, *Developmental Pediatrician, Private Practice*  
Dr. Pat Gage, *Clinical Psychologist, Private Practice*  
Dr. Jill Kelderman, *Neuropsychologist, Private Practice*  
Dr. Jeryl Kirscher, *Psychiatrist, Private Practice*  
Dr. Chris McGinnis, *Clinical Psychologist and BCBA, Boystown*  
Dr. Kelley Everson, *Clinical Psychologist, PBBHW*  
Ginny Jones, *LCMHC, Helping People Succeed*



Additionally, 7 ASHA, Social Work, Mental Health, M&F CEUs for \$88 during advanced registration (\$105onsite). Registration for the conference is required. Please note: CEU's are available for onsite attendees only!

**FRI MAY 5**  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FAU Jupiter  
5353 Parkside Drive  
Jupiter, FL 33458

Register at: <http://mental-health-conference.eventbrite.com>



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## THE CONNECTION EDUCATION CENTER OF THE PALM BEACHES IS NOW OPENED

The Connection Education Center of the Palm Beaches, a Palm Beach County charter school, is currently open to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder ages 3-14. Beginning next school year (2017-2018), we are excited to announce plans to accept students up to the age of 22. The focus of our high school program will be on developing our students' skills to be able to transition into contributing members of our community through vocational and academic studies.



### 2017-2018 Opening a High School and Adult Vocational Program



Connections Education Center of the Palm Beaches (CECPB) will offer a variety of extra-curricular activities. The recreation center will consist of an indoor gymnasium, an outdoor swimming pool, and splash pad welcoming individuals of all abilities and skill sets. The center will present opportunities for inclusion; where individuals can gain an understanding of those with ranging abilities and help integrate those with special needs into an environment with typical peers. In addition, the center provides a chance for siblings to be involved with one another in an atmosphere where they can receive support. Typical siblings will also be provided the opportunity to interact with like peers who share similar circumstances. The recreation center will offer swim lessons to individuals on all levels from requiring basic water safety skills to refining strokes. Both the gymnasium and swimming pool provide many options for therapy, relaxation, and leisure activities in a controlled supervised environment. Activities for parents/care givers will also be offered. Future plans also include instruction with vocational training, job coaching, enrichment studies, independent living skills instruction and social skills instruction. Job opportunities within the center as well as in the community will be provided. In addition, CECPB will be developing a Culinary Arts and Horticulture/Farming program for Transition and Post-graduate students.

If you have any questions or are interested in being our community, feel free to call (561-328-6044) or email ([connections@connectedpb.com](mailto:connections@connectedpb.com))

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! WATCH YOUR EMAIL IN EARLY 2017 FOR AN ADULT NEEDS ASSESSMENT! YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL HELP FAU CARD WITH FUTURE PROGRAM PLANNING.**



# Adult Social Groups

Adults with autism spectrum disorder ages 18 and older are welcome. Groups will meet at various community locations to discuss issues, problem solve, and form friendships. Locations will be determined prior to outing date. Any costs associated with participation in the outing are the responsibility of the adult participant, as well as transportation to and from the outing.



## LOCATIONS

### Boca Raton 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec 19  
Monday, Jan 23  
Monday, Feb 20  
Monday, Mar 20  
Monday, Apr 17  
Monday, May 15

*For questions, contact Veronica Castro  
(561) 213-8381 or castrov2014@fau.edu*

### Treasure Coast 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan 12  
Thursday, Feb 9  
Thursday, Mar 9  
Thursday, Apr 13

*For questions, contact Cathy Allore  
(772) 873-3367 or callore@fau.edu*

### Jupiter

Dates and Times to be announced.

*For questions, contact Alison Bourdeau  
(561) 990-9518 or abourdeau@fau.edu*

## FAU CARD Hangout Group

Supporting young adults/students with autism and other related disabilities transition to independence. Ages 17 – 25 are welcome. This is a topic specific group that will meet monthly and discuss a different topic each session. There will be experts to facilitate topics and discussions.

*Participants must reside in Palm Beach County or attend a college or university in Palm Beach County.*

## DATES

Thursday  
Feb 23  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Dinning and Dating Etiquette**




**For more information about this group, please contact:**  
**Darius Murray, iRISE2 Mentor Program Coordinator, (561) 213-6936 or dmurra23@fau.edu**




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# Ladies Adult Social Group

- ★ Women with autism 18 years old and up
- ★ Social outings based on interests
- ★ Focusing on making connections with others and exploring interest-based activities in the area
- ★ Meeting in Jupiter
- ★ Meets monthly  
*(Dates/ times may be subject to change depending on activity scheduled.)*

 For more information call Alison Bourdeau  
(561)990-9518 or email [abourdeau@fau.edu](mailto:abourdeau@fau.edu)

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™  
iRISE² MENTORING PROGRAM

**Orientations:**  
Come and learn about our NEW exciting iRISE² Mentoring Program and how you can become a mentor for amazing individuals impacted by autism. This orientation will provide participants with a complete overview of our iRISE² Mentoring Program while discussing the role of mentor, mentor requirements, the iRISE² matching process, protégé enrollment and mentor training opportunities.

**Mentor Requirements:**

- Must be at least 21 years of age or older*
- Open to maintaining a 1-year mentoring relationship*
- Dedicate a minimum of 4-6 hours a month*
- Valid driver's license*
- Successfully complete volunteer background screening*

**Boca Raton iRISE² Mentor Orientation**

Thursday, January 12 (5:30-6:30pm)  
Monday, February 6 (5:30-6:30pm)  
Tuesday, March 7 (5:30-6:30pm)  
Monday, April 10 (5:30-6:30pm)  
Wednesday, May 10 (5:30-6:30pm)

**Boca Raton Campus, College of Education - 411**  
To attend this training on campus or online, register at:  
<https://irise2mentororientationboca.eventbrite.com>

**Jupiter iRISE² Mentor Orientation**

Thursday, April 20 (4:00-5:00pm)

**Jupiter Campus, Life Long Learning Center - PC 154**  
To attend this training on campus or online, register at:  
<https://irisementorjupiter.eventbrite.com>

 [autism.fau.edu](http://autism.fau.edu)

 (561)213-6936

 [dmurra23@fau.edu](mailto:dmurra23@fau.edu)



# IEP Series



**in Collaboration with Family Network on Disabilities**

## **Your Guide to an IEP that Works**

*Thursday, Feb 23, 2017*

**6:30 - 8 p.m.**

This workshop explains the IEP process and the importance of parental participation. Learn helpful tips for writing effective IEP goals and strategies.

*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED \*\*\*ONSITE ONLY\*\*\**

<https://iep-fnd.eventbrite.com>

## **Rights and Responsibilities**

*Thursday, Mar 23, 2017*

**6:30 - 8 p.m.**

This workshop will examine the rights of parents of children with disabilities. As a parent of a child who has been referred for special education services or who is already receiving special education services, you and your child have certain rights which are protected by state and federal law.

*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED \*\*\*ONSITE ONLY\*\*\**

<https://rights-fnd.eventbrite.com>

## **Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences**

*Thursday, Apr 27, 2017*

**6:30 - 8 p.m.**

Parent-Teacher conferences provide the perfect opportunity to build and strengthen the relationships between parents and teachers. Communication is an essential component to your child's academic success. This training provides a great framework for effective parent-teacher conferences and meetings.

*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED \*\*\*ONSITE ONLY\*\*\**

<https://conferences-fnd.eventbrite.com>

**IEP Notebook is the last training in this series and will take place in May 2017.**

**Watch the summer newsletter for that training**





# AUTISM IN THE NEW YEAR: THE HOPES AND FEARS OF 2017

By: Judith Aronson-Ramos, M.D.

[www.draronsonramos.com](http://www.draronsonramos.com)

In the world of health care the New Year is often a time when health care plans enforce new rules and regulations regarding benefits. Unfortunately in my experience many of these changes are negative for families. Frequently benefits are reduced, fewer medications are covered, and deductibles increase resulting in more out of pocket expenses for families. This year no one really knows what lies ahead. I would like to offer families faced with the challenges of getting the necessary services and coverage for their child with ASD some ideas to work around the obstacles they may face in 2017.

The areas I am most concerned about in 2017 for my families include: services covered by health plans and changes in legal mandates in public education. Although 2017 will likely bring changes to health insurance for everyone, it has always been more challenging for families with children who have special health care needs. In our office we frequently push insurance companies and public agencies for services. We are sometimes faced with the reality of no insurance benefits for ASD and limited public services. When we don't have the time to wait for appeals, waiting lists, and lack of coverage we find ways to empower families to get treatment in spite of these obstacles.

First we start by looking at all of the ways to effectively train parents. CARD is an excellent resource for workshops and seminars to help parents learn skills and techniques to work with their child on the spectrum. In addition there are frequently trainings offered by local private ABA companies, therapy centers, charitable organizations and service agencies (the family services council, ARC etc.). Listings can easily be found through an internet search. Some good websites include: [www.211palmbeach.org](http://www.211palmbeach.org), [www.arcpbc.org](http://www.arcpbc.org), autism speaks has a local resource guide, [www.floridaautismguide.org](http://www.floridaautismguide.org), and [www.autism.fau.edu](http://www.autism.fau.edu) the FAU CARD website is a great portal to find other resources.

I also recommend The Early Start Denver Model Parent Handbook by Geraldine Dawson to every parent of a child under 6 years of age. This provides every day activities to make interaction with your child with ASD therapeutic. In addition an excellent resource for families of young children with autism is the Autism Navigator <http://www.autismnavigator.com>. This site is full of excellent resources for parents to help with behavior management and to build skills. It also has an excellent video library full of information and real world examples.

An excellent resource for older children is The Parents' Guide to Teaching Kids with Asperger Syndrome and Similar ASDs Real-Life Skills for Independence by Patrician Romanowski. Some of the best publishers to search for the most update books and materials on ASD include: Jessica Kingsley, Wiley, Brookes, Woodbine House, and Future Horizons. Google any of these publishing companies to view their catalogues. Also be sure to check out [www.socialthinking.com](http://www.socialthinking.com) for materials to work on pragmatics and social skills.

I also recommend online ABA platforms too so parents and caregivers can learn some basic principles to work on behaviors and skills at home (a few examples - [www.rethinkfirst.com](http://www.rethinkfirst.com) and [www.udiscovering.org](http://www.udiscovering.org)). Be sure to check the credentials of the people offering the online ABA programs as quality of the information provided can vary. Do not just sign up for what looks good or is affordable, check the credentials of the organization by asking physicians, therapists or teachers involved in your child's care.



Another option is to investigate what may be offered at local universities and colleges (FAU, U. of M, FIU, and NOVA). Many of these institutions have research projects which offer assessments, treatments, or opportunities to monitor progress at no charge. You can look for these opportunities by searching in appropriate departments such as psychology, behavioral sciences, education, speech and language, occupational therapy etc. In particular, schools with graduate programs are more likely to have ongoing research projects.

Finally, involve extended family, members of religious organizations with which you affiliate, neighbors etc. to become a part of your child's team. Bartering services, trading, and returning favors can provide you with ways to find more willing people to help you work with your child.

Regarding public educational services I often have to refer my families to others for help. Physicians can provide some assistance by writing letters, confirming or making diagnoses, and signing off on forms requiring an MD. However, as most families know having a diagnosis is insufficient to mandate services. When families run in to challenges I recommend contacting an advocate through the public system or privately. Be mindful that adversarial relationships with your school ESE department do no serve your child well. ESE departments are committed to providing special education services but they have to deal with the unfortunate reality of funding shortages, institutional delays and overcrowding. My advice for families here is always to try your best to work in a collaborative way even if that means you have to take the lead to establish a positive tone in meetings and communications with teachers and administrators. Of course no one will advocate for your child with the same commitment as a parent, but along the way families can find allies and mentors who will care too. My advice is to seek out these individuals and nourish these relationships for the benefit of your child. The Palm Beach County the ESE advisory committee can be a good starting place <https://www.palmbeachschools.org/ease/eseadvisorycommittee>. Also <http://wrightslaw.com> has a solid reputation of providing families with accurate information about your legal rights in the public education system. Additionally, there are lawyers and professional advocates for hire who can provide families with much needed assistance when necessary. Be sure to vet consultants you hire – checking their credentials and reputations thoroughly.

As we move forward into 2017 we will all need to remain committed to our kids with ASD to assure we do not lose the gains we have made in ASD services in schools and health care.

*"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."*  
Thomas A. Edison

## FLORIDA AUTISM LICENSE PLATE



### Support Autism Programs

Florida motorists have the opportunity to help generate funds for autism related services throughout Florida by purchasing a plate!

**Purchase a Plate!**



## Community Developmental Screening Clinic

Do you have a child who is 5 years old or younger?  
Do you have concerns about their development?

We will conduct free developmental screenings throughout our service area, which includes Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. This service is critical for children and families experiencing developmental concerns because early screening leads to early diagnosis and early intervention.

### We are coming to your community! Developmental Screenings

**Where:** Vickers House South  
3801 Georgia Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Dates:** January 17, 2017  
March 21, 2017  
May 16, 2017

**Appointments:** Call (561) 804-4975 - to schedule your child for a screening.  
*\*Parents must be present at the time of screening to provide consent and receive screening results.\**

If you have specific questions about screening tools used or to schedule the clinic to come to your area  
Please contact Veronica A. Castro, LCSW at (561) 213-8381.

The FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) provides expert consulting, training and support, at no charge, for people with autism and related disabilities, their families and the professionals serving them. CARD's goal is to optimize the potential of the individuals we serve by helping them become valued members of their communities, enabling them to learn, work, communicate and socialize. Visit us at: [www.autism.fau.edu](http://www.autism.fau.edu) To donate to FAU CARD visit: <http://coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/card/donate.php> If an accommodation(s) for a disability is required, please call 561-297-2055 or e-mail us at [CARD@fau.edu](mailto:CARD@fau.edu), a minimum of 5 working days in advance of the date of the event.



## TREASURE COAST NEWS

### SPECIAL NEEDS DANCES IN PORT ST LUCIE (Ages 15+)

**Dates:** TBA

**Where:** Port St Lucie Civic Center from 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Special Recreation participants, family and friends are invited to spend an evening of fun, music, dancing, and socializing.

**Cost** is \$7.00 in advance and \$9.00 at the door.

**Contact:** Erin Murphy at the Port St Lucie Civic Center for more information. 772-807-4469

### SPECIAL NEEDS FITNESS (Ages 18+)

**Location:** Port St Lucie Civic Center Gymnasium Side A&B

Participants with special needs are encouraged to join for two hours of fun and fitness. This program includes one hour in the game room and one hour of physical activity in the gymnasium.

**Cost** is \$2.00 per person. **Dates:** May 11 and June 8 from 10am – 11:45am.

**Contact:** Erin Murphy at the Port St Lucie Civic Center for more information. 772-807-4469.

## TREASURE COAST PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS:

### Disability Support Network of the Treasure Coast

Disability Support Network is a parent support group meeting to provide support and information for parents of individuals with special needs, not specifically for those living with autism spectrum disorders.

**When:** 3rd Thursday of each month from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in either Martin or St Lucie.

**Where:** TBA at a local restaurant. Like them on Facebook for meeting notifications.

RSVP: [puzzledfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:puzzledfamilies@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131030553607709/>

### Puzzled Families of Indian River County

Puzzled Families is a parent support group that meets to provide support and information for parents of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

**When:** 2nd Monday of each month from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Sun Up Center, 2455 5th Street SW, Vero Beach, FL

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Puzzled-Families-of-Indian-River/122076224542183>

RSVP: [puzzledfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:puzzledfamilies@gmail.com)

### S.O.U.L. (Supporting, Overcoming, Understanding, & Loving)

Meets in Martin County and is for those families living with autism spectrum disorders. This is not a religious meeting, but for education and q & a. The goal of the group is to provide resources to those families attending.

**When:** 1st Monday of the month from 6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Where:** Covenant Fellowship Church @ 2880 SE Aster Lane in Stuart.

For More info contact Rhonda Oksman, Founder/Facilitator

Email: [rhonda.oksman@gmail.com](mailto:rhonda.oksman@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/SoulSupportGroup>

### A Mommy Corner

Parent/family support group meeting in St Lucie County. Started and run by two moms of special needs children. The group's mission is to inspire and encourage; educate and empower to bring about positive change in your and your child's life. Join the group to gain and give advice, develop friendships, and find inspiration.

**When:** TBA

**Where:** Sun Up Center, 2455 5th Street SW, Vero Beach, FL

<https://www.facebook.com/amommycorner/>

RSVP: [amommycorner@gmail.com](mailto:amommycorner@gmail.com) or 772-882-1376



# FAU CARD ONLINE TRAININGS

FAU CARD has developed this library of online training presentations that are available for you to view.

Visit our website: <http://coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/card/tutorials.php>

- Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders

## In the Home

- Guardianship Options
- Strategies for Increasing Homework Success
- Toilet Training

## In the School

- ASD & the Reading Comprehension Challenge: What Can You Do?, created by UM-NSU CARD
- Classroom Set-up
- Count on It! Strategies to Teach Math Skills to Students with ASD, created by UM-NSU CARD
- Enhancing Engagement in Science
- Strategies for Increasing Homework Success
- Preventing Seclusion and Restraint for Students with ASD

## Behavior Series

- **Part 1:** Understanding Why Problem Behaviors Occur
- **Part 2:** Building Play and Leisure Skills
- **Part 3:** Environmental Setup and Visual Strategies
- **Part 4:** Developing Requesting and Protesting Skills
- **Part 5:** Token Economies and Behavioral Contracts

SAVE THE DATE!

January 20-22, 2017

24  
CARD

Conference  
on Autism and Related Disabilities

24 years • 7 centers • 1 mission

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference  
and PEPSA PreConference for Educators

Florida Hotel and Conference Center • Orlando, FL

To register, please visit: <http://www.cardconference.net>



Register: <http://2017summeracademy.eventbrite.com>

# SUMMER ACADEMY

FAU Jupiter Campus  
Lifelong Learning Center

Are you ready to learn new strategies to apply with your students in the Fall? Come to Summer Academy. Our Summer Academy is a training opportunity for teachers and other professionals working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders. On each day, different topics will be presented to help provide evidence-based and effective strategies for professionals to utilize in their daily practice.

## Monday, July 24

**9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dr. Debra Leach, Ed.D., BCBA**

This one-day workshop provides educators with step-by-step procedures for using applied behavior analysis (ABA) to design and implement interventions to target the needs of students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in inclusive classrooms. Participants will learn how to conduct meaningful assessments to gather relevant information to assist with setting individualized goals. Sample assessment tools will be provided. Attendees will learn how to use assessment data to set attainable goals for ABA interventions. Procedures will then be shared for designing ABA interventions that will be embedded within the context of everyday instructional and non-instructional classroom activities to address the goals selected. A multitude of behavioral teaching strategies will be discussed that can be used when designing individualized interventions. User-friendly data collection tools will be shared to allow for consistency in monitoring student progress. Tips will be shared for building collaborative relationships among special educators, general educators, related service providers and families to ensure success when designing and implementing ABA interventions in inclusive classrooms.

*Debra Leach is Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Associate Professor of Special Education at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. She is also the Project Director of the Winthrop Think College program, a fully inclusive post-secondary program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her areas of specialization are autism spectrum disorders, applied behavior analysis, positive behavioral interventions and supports, differentiated instruction, and inclusion from birth to adulthood. She has authored three books and a variety of journal articles related to these topics to support educators with implementing evidence based practices across home, school and community contexts.*

## Tuesday, July 25

**9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Dr. Lee Wilkinson, Ph.D., NCSP, CCBT, BCBA, CEU's credits**

Anxiety is one of the most prevalent and impairing co-occurring conditions in children, teens, and young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Although prevalence rates vary, most studies indicate that approximately one-half of individuals with ASD meet the criteria for at least one anxiety disorder. Fear, worry, and anxiety can result in personal distress in children, parents, and siblings, increase challenging behavior, restrict activities/opportunities, and negatively impact the quality of life for child and family.

This workshop presentation will focus on the tools and strategies that can be implemented to reduce anxiety and increase self-regulation and coping skills in children and teens. The objective is for participants to understand the nature, prevalence, and impact of anxiety and to explore the types of modifications, accommodations, and supports that can help alleviate anxiety and improve the educational and social outcomes for children and youth on the autism spectrum.

**11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. TBA**

**6 ASHA, Social Work CEUs will be available on Monday, July 24 and on Tuesday, July 25. (\$75 pre-registration; \$90 onsite)**

**District in-service points will be provided by district representatives**

**\*2.5 BCBA CEUs will be available on Tuesday, July 25 (\$32 pre-registration; \$38 onsite)**

The FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) provides expert consulting, training and support, at no charge, for people with autism and related disabilities, their families and the professionals serving them. CARD's goal is to optimize the potential of the individuals we serve by helping them become valued members of their communities, enabling them to learn, work, communicate and socialize. Visit us at: [www.autism.fau.edu](http://www.autism.fau.edu) If an accommodation(s) for a disability is required, please call 561-297-2055 or e-mail us at [CARD@fau.edu](mailto:CARD@fau.edu), a minimum of 5 working days in advance of the date of the event.

We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to all of the families and professionals who continue to support FAU CARD.

If you or your organization would like to contribute to FAU CARD, donations can be made out to:



**FAU Foundation - CARD**

*and mailed to our office at:*

**FAU CARD  
Department of ESE  
777 Glades Road  
Boca Raton, FL 33431**

**Or visit:**

<https://fauf.fau.edu/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?&pid=1151>

and select Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (C.A.R.D.) as the designation

**FAU**  
**CENTER FOR AUTISM AND  
RELATED DISABILITIES**  
Florida Atlantic University