



FAU<sup>TM</sup>

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CENTER FOR AUTISM AND  
RELATED DISABILITIES  
Florida Atlantic University

## Executive Director's Message

**Some Good News from the U.S. Supreme Court.** On March 22, 2017, the Supreme Court of the United States, the highest court in the country, issued an important ruling on special education. This ruling happened to be on an autism case from Colorado. The family of a boy named Andrew F., (who has autism) believed their son was failing to make progress in his public school placement and asked the district to pay for his private special education school tuition. The district denied the request. The boy had been making only the slightest degree of progress and the school asserted that they offered an "appropriate" program.

The Supreme Court ruling, which was strongly supportive with a vote of 8-0, was written by the Chief Justice, John Roberts. He wrote, in describing what seems to be the previous legal standard:

Of course this describes a general standard, not a formula. But whatever else can be said about it, this standard is markedly more demanding than the "merely more than *de minimis*" test applied by the Tenth Circuit. It cannot be the case that the Act [IDEA] typically aims for grade-level advancement for children with disabilities who can be educated in the regular classroom, but is satisfied with barely more than *de minimis* progress for those who cannot.

When all is said and done, a student offered an educational program providing "merely more than *de minimis*" progress from year to year can hardly be said to have been offered an education at all. For children with disabilities, receiving instruction that aims so low would be tantamount to "sitting idly . . . awaiting the time when they were old enough to 'drop out.'" Rowley, 458 U. S., at 179 (some internal quotation marks omitted). The IDEA demands more. It requires an educational program reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child's circumstances.

A program that is *de minimis* is one that is just slightly above the minimum that could be provided or one so low as to just barely qualify as an appropriate program. Chief Justice Roberts stated what will become, I believe, the new standard, replacing "appropriate" which has been the standard and in the case of this child had been interpreted, incorrectly to mean merely more than *de minimis*, with two new key words, "**appropriately ambitious**." Roberts wrote:

But his educational program must be appropriately ambitious in light of his circumstances, just as advancement from grade to grade is appropriately ambitious for most children in the regular classroom. The goals may differ, but every child should have the chance to meet challenging objectives.

The court did not specify what **appropriately ambitious** looked like or what challenging objectives would be noting that all of this must be determined by the IEP team. But quite clearly this is a new, higher, more demanding standard for IEP services and one that should be welcomed by all parents and concerned educators. The Supreme Court ruling can be found at [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/16pdf/15-827\\_0pm1.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/16pdf/15-827_0pm1.pdf)

I will be providing more information on this as it becomes available but please recognize this as a big step forward for special education rights and the right to access **appropriately ambitious** programs for children with autism and other serious disabilities

*Jack Scott*  
Executive Director

## FAU CARD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL TRAININGS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE

### MAY

MAY 5	FAU CARD Mental Health Conference
MAY 7	Free Respite Care Training Program
MAY 10	Little Owls Early Intervention Initiative - Okeechobee County
MAY 11	Business to Business Diversity Conference
MAY 11	Adult Social Group - Treasure Coast
MAY 15	Adult Social Group - Boca Raton
MAY 16	Community Developmental Screening Clinic
MAY 17	Sailing into Summer
MAY 19	Transition Overview
MAY 23	Planning for a Successful Summer Vacation with Children Who Have ASD
MAY 23	iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation - Jupiter Campus
MAY 25	IEP Notebook
MAY 26	Nutrition & ASD
MAY 30	Caring for the Caregiver

### JUNE

JUNE 5	Transition from High School for Middle School Parents
JUNE 10	Little Owls Early Intervention Initiative - Milestones Developmental Center for Autism
JUNE 13	Annual Law Enforcement & First Responders Conference
JUNE 13	iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation - Boca Raton Campus
JUNE 22	ABC's of Advocacy
JUNE 23	Strategies for Adolescents to Decode the Social World

### JULY

JULY 13	Adult Social Group - Treasure Coast
JULY 18	iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation - Boca Raton Campus
JULY 24-25	Summer Academy

### AUG

AUG 10	Adult Social Group - Treasure Coast
AUG 15	iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation - Boca Raton Campus

Visit: <http://coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/card/trainingcalendar.php>

FAU CARD does not endorse specific programs or points of view presented in this newsletter.



## Director's Update

Dear CARD Families,

It has been a very busy winter and spring at FAU CARD. FAU CARD collaborated with the other statewide CARD centers to offer our **24th Annual Statewide CARD conference**. The conference offered an impressive line-up of speakers and was very well attended. We look forward to the **25th State CARD Conference in St. Petersburg Beach at the Tradewinds Resort from January 12th-14th. The theme will focus on Hopes and Dreams for the Florida Autism Community. Hope you can join us!**

**FAU CARD sponsored the following trainings and events:** Autism Speakers Series; Adult Social Groups; Hangout Group-Dining and Dating with Etiquette; iRISE2 Mentoring trainings; Little Owls Early Intervention Initiative Training; Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Services; Destination Preschool-Transitioning to School-Age Services; Opening the Social Circle; Navigating School Choice; iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation; Strategies to Support Siblings; Supporting Reading Comprehension at Home; Your Guide to an IEP that Works; Caring for the Caregiver; Rights and Responsibilities; Relationship Safety; Effective Teacher-Parent Conferences; and more. **Please see our event and training calendar for upcoming events.**

**FAU CARD** through the generous donation of the **Mangurian Foundation** offered the **2017 Autism Speakers Series**. The Autism Speakers Series sponsored speaking engagements by **Alex Plank, Liane Holliday Willey and our own John Miller**. John, Alex and Liane shared their journey and challenges living with autism, with large groups of enthusiastic participants. This series has provided individuals with ASD and their families hope, while increasing the understanding of the gifts and challenges of living with autism. We are busy planning for the 2018 series.

**FAU CARD sponsored on February 3rd, from 9-4pm, Theory of Mind and Reading Comprehension** with **Dr. Dawn Holman**, Dr. Holman is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She 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 provided an overview of her research in working with Theory of Mind and Reading Comprehension, as well as strategies on how to teach requisite skills to help students become better social inferential comprehenders – and readers.

**Dr. Roseanne Lesack**, licensed psychologist and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and **Director of the Unicorn Children's Foundation Clinic at Nova Southeastern University and supervisor of the Feeding Disorders Clinic** provided a training for professionals and parents entitled **Pediatric Feeding Disorders and ASD: Beyond Picky Eaters**. This presentation reviewed the characteristics of feeding concerns in children with ASD, discussed the classification of a feeding disorder as it relates to individuals with ASD, why children with ASD often engage in picky eating. She offered guidance and strategies on how to address these concerns. **Dr. Lesack will be offering an advanced level training for BCBAs, SLPs and other interested professionals on Friday, November 17th. See our Event Calendar for detailed information and registration.**

The **FAU CARD 9th Annual Wings of Hope Cocktail Party, Dinner and Reception** was held on **March 11th at the Boca Pointe Club**. The event was a huge success and garnered over 220 guests and friends of FAU CARD. I want to thank the Wings of Hope Planning Committee and the countless number of volunteers and sponsors, as well as our **honoree Michele Weppner for their longstanding support and dedication to the Autism community and FAU CARD**. Thank you also to Ashley Williams of WPTV for serving as Master of Ceremony and Gordon Latz for serving as the auctioneer for the Live Auction. Finally, I want to thank the tireless and hard-working Wings of Hope Committee in particular Michele Weppner, Brett Hart, Heidi Rasmussen, Glen

Stein, Shelby Rogerson, Dr. Gregory and Laina Albert, Dennis Crowley, Mari Hauptert, Sheriann Namer, Lee and Debra Rosenfeld, Joe and Fran Eppy, Lloyd Bucher and a special thanks to Mercedes Pagano, Marketing, Information, and Fundraising Coordinator as well as the FAU CARD staff for their hard work, dedication and countless hours contributed to make this event a success. Thank you all!

**Friday, May 5th** we will host our first **FAU CARD Mental Health Conference from 8:30-4:30** at the **FAU MacArthur Jupiter Campus, ADM Building Auditorium**. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Joshua Nadeau, Clinical Psychologist from Rogers Behavioral Health in Tampa. His presentation will be entitled "Anxiety Disorders on the Autism Spectrum: Understanding & Differentiating Between Conditions." Dr. Judith Aronson-Ramos, Developmental Pediatrician from Broward County will present about medication management in autism spectrum disorders. There will also be a panel discussion with prominent local experts from the community discussing evidenced-based practices in treatment of individuals with Autism and Anxiety Disorders. The training is being offered for free. Advance registration is required. **CEUs will be offered for Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Mental Health Counselors (ASHA CEUs will not be available.)**

Mark your calendar for the **2017 Annual Summer Academy on Monday, July 24th and Tuesday, July 25th**. This event will be held at the **FAU MacArthur Jupiter Campus in the Lifelong Learning Center from 9:00-4:30pm**. We are very excited to sponsor **Dr. Debra Leach, Ed.D. and Board Certified Behavior Analyst, as well as, Dr. Lee Wilkinson, as Keynote Speakers**. Dr. Leach will provide 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 students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in inclusive classrooms and setting individualized goals. Sample assessment tools will be provided. Dr. Wilkinson will discuss Anxiety, one of the most prevalent and impairing co-occurring conditions in children, teens, and young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

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. **BCBA CEUs will be provided on Monday, July 24th and .6 ASHA CEUs and 6 Social Worker, Mental Health Counselors, and Marriage and Family CEUs will be provided both days.**

I hope to see you at our events. Have a wonderful summer!

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

### 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!**



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THE  
Meet  
Staff



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.

#### Discover how to:

- Promote learning
- Improve communication
- Increase social engagement
- Keep your child safe

#### Learn about:

- Therapies
- Advocacy
- Benefits your child may be eligible for
- Parent support and self-care

#### 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:** 5/10, 5/17, 5/24

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Okeechobee County

Emergency Operation Center

707 NW 6th St. Okeechobee, FL 34972

<https://littleowlsokeechobeemay.eventbrite.com>

**Date:** 6/10, 6/17, 6/24

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Location:** Milestones Developmental Center for Autism

475 43rd Ave

Vero Beach, FL 39268

<https://littleowlsbjune.eventbrite.com>



## SAVE FOR A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE

After years of advocating, negotiating, and compromising, the Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act was passed into law. The ABLE Act now allows for the creation of savings and investment accounts for people with disabilities, without negatively impacting federal benefits. Florida is among the first states to implement the law, which created the ABLE United program.

ABLE United allows Floridians with disabilities to save like never before - by receiving tax incentives to save for future expenses and building assets without risk of losing federal benefits such as SSI and Medicaid. Funds in an ABLE account can be used, tax-free, for living expenses such as housing, education, and health and wellness services.

ABLE United advantages:

- Save tax-free for future expenses
- Save while maintaining federal benefits
- Save on fees- ABLE United offers the best value for Florida residents

Advocates and family members united more than a decade ago to create a grassroots movement that resulted in one of the most important pieces of legislation for the disability community in years. Now, we can unite for all to achieve a better life experience.

For more information on ABLE United, go to <http://www.ableunited.com>

## GIRLS WHO CODE



The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at Florida Atlantic University (FAU CARD), is proud to announce two NEW additions to our iRISE2 Mentoring Program. Under the guidance of an experienced female computer engineer, FAU CARD staff and trained iRISE2 mentors, this innovative program is helping to close the gender gap in technology while providing its club members with the opportunity to explore an interest in the STEM field. FAU CARD is proud to be an official host of Girls Who Code, providing a inclusive computer science club for creative and intellectually curious teen girls between the ages of 15 - 22 years old with and strong interest in art and computers

and a diagnosis of autism. With the use of best-practice tools this club provides a unique approach to building social skills and independence while influencing traits of confidence and self-esteem, during key developmental stages of social and emotional growth. This Spring coding is the common interest and it is influencing friendships and helping to enhance skills and interest.

Our second new program initiative within our iRISE2 Mentoring Program is a School-Based Group Mentoring Program at Renaissance Learning Academy (RLA) in West Palm Beach. RLA is a non-profit Palm Beach County charter high school serving students ages 14-21 with autism spectrum disorder. This program focuses on the development and strengthening of communication skills utilizing the PEERS school-based curriculum. The club is held on Wednesdays bi-monthly from 1-2pm and runs until the end of the school year. This unique group-mentoring format provides students the ability to practice and apply their social skills with adults as well as peers. These programs are currently offered free to individuals registered with the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, if you would like to learn more or become a mentor please contact Darius Murray, iRISE2 Mentoring Program Coordinator at: 561-213-6936 or [dmurra23@fau.edu](mailto:dmurra23@fau.edu).

## 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?

Are you interested in technology or coding?

## 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)



AUTISM KNOWS NO BORDERS, FORTUNATELY NEITHER DO WE

By: Butterfly Effects Clinical Team

The [Global Autism Project](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the acceptance and integration of individuals with autism, by training communities around the world in culturally relevant, quality practices. This past January I was able to travel to Kenya for 2.5 weeks to help develop sustainable practices with an ABA center in Nairobi.



The Global Autism Project has 7 partner sites located in Kenya, Dominican Republic, India, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, and the Czech Republic. They strive to support these ABA centers on a regular basis, in the hopes that the centers gain the skills to be self-sufficient therapy centers and autism experts in their local areas. Global Autism Project achieves this by creating partnerships that consist of weekly supervision meetings, as well as multiple SkillCorps trips throughout the year. These SkillCorps trips send small groups of qualified individuals into the field to support the center in any way. The teams consist of BCBA's, BCaBA's, RBT's, and behavior technicians. This can be clinical or administrative support and goals are created to support the center's most pressing needs.

In February 2016 I traveled to the Dominican Republic with the organization. Goals for our trip included creating a preschool-like environment for their younger clients. We created a centers program and circle time to allow for social opportunities for the children. We also helped create behavior plans for two clients who were exhibiting difficult behaviors on a consistent basis. We did this through observations at the center and at their schools, as well as comprehensive data review.



Kaizora Institute is the name of the ABA center that I worked at in Nairobi. The center is run by the only BCBA located in East Africa. During our trip we focused on introducing Direct Instruction (DI) into the school setting. This delivers academic information in a structured group format. We spent time troubleshooting how to apply it within different developmental levels and found there was not much research on using DI with intermediate learners. It was challenging, but a fun project to trial and error different ideas and find something that will work for that particular classroom.

I found this organization through a Google search hoping something like this existed. I wanted to combine my passions for ABA and travel. The focus on culturally sensitive and appropriate practices is what has kept me so passionate about this work. Global Autism Project strives to teach what is appropriate for that center in that area of the world. It is not about Americanizing these centers. From my two trips, I can say I personally learned just as much as we taught the centers in the Dominican Republic and Kenya. I'll be participating in a leadership training with the Global Autism Project this spring with the hope that I can help lead future trips!

Kathryn Petersen, BCBA  
Butterfly Effects

FAU CARD Mental Health Conference

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

FAU Jupiter  
ADM Building - Auditorium  
5353 Parkside Drive  
Jupiter, FL 33458

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

Dr. Josh Nadeau  
**Differential Diagnosis-ASD and MH**

Dr. Nadeau is a licensed clinical psychologist, supervising the clinical treatment team in the partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs for children, adolescents and adults at the Rogers Behavioral Health in Tampa Bay, as well as a research faculty position with the Department of Pediatrics at the University of South Florida's Morsani College of Medicine.

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Provide an overview of the history of mental health issues in autism spectrum disorders.
- 2. Identify phenomenology and prevalence rates for comorbid anxiety disorders in ASD.
- 3. Understand treatment barriers associated with ASD.
- 4. Understand diagnosis through assessment and treatment.

12 - 1:30 p.m.

**Lunch**

1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

Dr. Aronson-Ramos  
**Medication Management**

Dr. Aronson-Ramos is the Medical Director of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics of South Florida serving the South Florida community since 1993. Additionally, she serves as the Medical Director for FAU CARD. Dr. Aronson-Ramos is Board Certified in Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics and General Pediatrics, exclusively serving the pediatric population with developmental delays, learning differences, behavioral challenges, social-emotional problems, and many other difficulties.

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Commonly used medications in ASD.
- 2. Nutraceuticals and supplements in ASD.
- 3. Research trends in psychopharmacology for ASD.
- 4. The role of parents and caregivers in medication management.
- 5. Pharmacogenetic testing.
- 6. Understanding the evidence.

2:45 - 4:30 p.m.

**Treating Individuals with ASD and MH Panel Presentation**  
**Panel Facilitator:** Jack Scott, Ph.D., Executive Director FAU CARD

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Evidence-based practices and strategies in treating individuals with ASD and co-morbidity.
- 2. Evidence-based practices and strategies in treating individuals with ASD and global anxiety disorders.

Additionally, .6 ASHA CEUs and 6 Social Work, Mental Health, M&F CEUs for \$75 during advanced registration (\$90onsite). Registration for the conference is required.

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



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 five working days in advance of the date of the event.



# FREE Respite Care Training Program

Learn the skills and tools necessary to be an effective caregiver to individuals of all ages living with developmental and autism spectrum disorders.

**Sunday, May 7, 2017**  
**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

(Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m.)

Sponsored By:

**FAU CARD**



**Location:**  
Peter Blum Family YMCA of Boca Raton,  
6631 Palmetto Circle S., Boca Raton, FL 33433

To Register: [www.ralejfs.org/rsvp](http://www.ralejfs.org/rsvp)

For additional information contact Zippi Rosen, MSW  
JFS Special Needs Outreach Coordinator  
561.852.3333 | [tzippir@ralejfs.org](mailto:tzippir@ralejfs.org)



**Business to Business**  
*Diversity Conference*

**5/11/17**

**Holiday Inn**

1301 Belvedere Rd., West Palm Beach, FL

**Learn from award-winning** keynote speakers Haben Girma and Debra Ruh about hiring, training and retaining persons with disabilities at our “**R**einforcing **E**mployment **A**ccess & **C**areer **H**iring” (**R.E.A.C.H.**) event!

**Haben Girma**

As the first deaf and blind woman to graduate from Harvard Law, Haben has also earned recognition as a White House Champion of Change, Forbes 30 under 30 and BBC Women of Africa Hero.

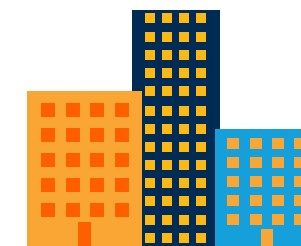
**Debra Ruh**

Known worldwide for helping large corporations better understand how to reach an audience including people with various ability levels and challenges.

**Date:**

Thursday  
**MAY 11**  
8:00 - 4:30

**Location:**



**Holiday Inn**

1301 Belvedere Rd., West Palm Beach, FL

**Registration:**

**\$45.50+tax**

**Included:**

- ▶ Resource guide
- ▶ Breakfast & lunch
- ▶ Signed book by Debra Ruh
- ▶ CEU's
- ▶ Meet a surprise guest artist!

**Register today! Email [ttwteam@careersourcepbcc.com](mailto:ttwteam@careersourcepbcc.com).**

*Donations welcome!*



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

Follow us: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#)



Dear CARD Families and CARD Friends,

The United Way of Palm Beach County holds a special fundraiser each May, this year on May 17. **The Great Give** is a one-day event in which member agencies of United Way benefit from community-wide donations. And your donation is increased from a bonus pool of money raised by the Community Foundation so as to make your donation really count. United Way is known to us all as a rock-solid charity and friend of the disability community. Their sponsorship of this event offers FAU CARD a wonderful way to encourage gifts both big and small.



It is many small gifts - **\$20** in the minimum donation – that we hope to get. While we, of course, would love to get large gifts, many \$20 donations is our target for The Great Give. Each year CARD puts on our Wings of Hope banquet and, we know the ticket prices for this wonderful event are too expensive for most of our CARD families. Fortunately, we have some CARD families and many families who can afford this level of support. But here, with The Great Give, all of our families can help. *A donation of \$20.00 is all we ask. If just 500 families donate \$20.00 we can reach our goal of \$10,000 in this one day.*

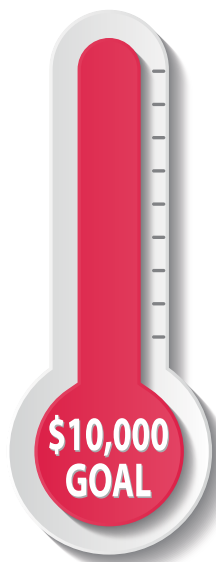
And we need more money. We are assured of “level funding” this year from the Florida Legislature. That is good, but it falls short in light of our need for even small staff raises and rising costs of helping so many new families we serve. Virtually all of our state grant award goes to cover salaries and then all of our other expenses; office supplies, books, replacement computers, much of our travel for home visits and conferences, and other costs are covered by fund-raising. This does allow CARD to maximize our state funds with the focus on services. But for this work, we need your help.

***So May 17th, a Wednesday is the day for The Great Give. Please be one of the many donors who together can help us reach our goal of \$10,000.***

- On May 17, donate by [Clicking Here](#)
- Make sure you mention **FAU CARD on the comment section.**
- Thank you!

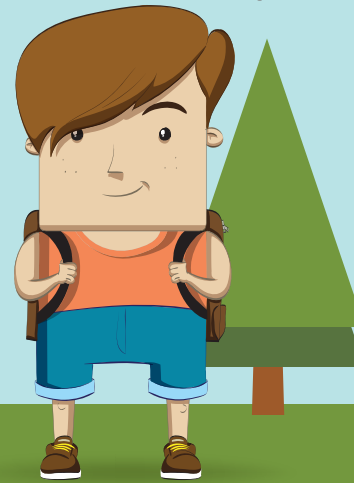
With warm appreciation,

Jack Scott  
Executive Director



## Let's go! **Sailing into Summer**

**Using Evidence Based Practices to support your child in making the transition from school to camp environments.**



As summer approaches many parents' thoughts land on making the transition from school to camp as seamless as possible. In this training we will discuss using Evidence Based practices to prepare your child for the many changes that summer bring. Special focus will be placed on preparing your child for the differences between the school and camp environments. We hope you join us for this very exciting training opportunity.

**WED  
MAY 17**  
10 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://sailingintosummer.eventbrite.com>**

*Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.*

*For more information please contact Susanna Launder at [slaunder@fau.edu](mailto:slaunder@fau.edu)*

## Transition Overview

Lisa Friedman-Chavez from the Project 10 Transition Education Network is our speaker for this training on transition. Come learn about transition IEPs, preparing students for transition, transition planning tools, and graduation deferment.

Lisa Friedman-Chavez is the Southern Regional Transition Representative (Region 5 RTR) for Project 10: Transition Education Network, which is housed at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Prior to working with Project 10, Ms. Friedman-Chavez worked on various grants at the University of South Florida, including the Partners in Transition Training and Technical Assistance Project, the Students Website on Employment and Transition (more commonly known as [www.fyitransition.org](http://www.fyitransition.org)), and the Start-up Florida Project (which focused on self-employment for individuals with disabilities). Ms. Friedman-Chavez also coordinated the Supported Employment and Supported Living Programs for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities office serving Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.



**FRI  
MAY 19**  
1 - 3 p.m.

**FAU Jupiter Campus, College of Education, Room 101**

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

**[https://transition\\_overview.eventbrite.com](https://transition_overview.eventbrite.com)**

*Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2017*

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





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.

## • Can my 401k or Group Life Insurance disqualify my child with autism from government benefits when I die?

**Yes.** If your child accumulates \$2000 of assets in their name they will be ineligible for government benefits. To avoid this, carefully check the beneficiary and successor beneficiary designations on your group life insurance and 401k plan. By the way, this applies to any asset that may trickle down to your child with special needs. And keep them up to date! You may wish to name a special needs trust as a beneficiary. Speak to a SpecialCare Planner for specifics.

*The SpecialCare program, developed exclusively by MassMutual, is an innovative outreach initiative that provides access to information, specialists and financial products and services that can help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and other special needs and their families and care givers.*

*Joseph Eppy, president of The Eppy Group, assisted in the development of this program and taught other advisors on this topic for MassMutual.*

## • If we retire and spend our accumulated assets, how will we have money for my child's Special Needs Trust?

Before you retire it is crucial to do the proper planning so that you can spend your accumulated assets. Life insurance is often the best way to fund a special needs trust. It allows you to leverage your dollars today and plan for your child's future. Using **Whole** life insurance gives you a unique opportunity to spend down retirement assets, possibly increasing your spendable dollars and reducing taxes. Although, this may sound complex, we can help you understand the benefits of this type of planning.

## • Someone told me I need to be appointed the guardian of my own child when they reach the age of 18, is this true and why?

When a child in the state of Florida reaches the age of 18, they have all the legal rights and responsibilities of an adult...regardless of their decision making capabilities. A parent must go to court and be appointed guardian. Most importantly, if a parent is not the legal guardian of an adult child, they do not have the right to name the successor guardian, nor do they have the right to make decisions for the child, i.e. health care, financial and living. Without this, the adult child can be held liable for financial scams to which they are quite vulnerable. In the state of Florida there are 3 types of guardianship. Contact us for more information.

**DISCLOSURES: TAX/LEGAL-** The information contained herein is being provided with the understanding that it is not intended to be interpreted as specific legal or tax advice. Neither MassMutual nor any of its employees or agents are authorized to give legal or tax advice. Individuals are encouraged to seek the guidance of their own personal legal or tax counsel. Securities and investment advisory services offered through qualified registered representatives of MML Investors services, LLC. Member SIPC ([www.SIPC.com](http://www.SIPC.com)) OSJ: 2100 Ponce De Leon Blvd Suite 600 Coral Gables Florida 33134 305-648-2445. The Eppy Group is not a subsidiary or affiliate of MML Investors Services, LLC or its affiliated companies.

# Planning For A Successful Summer Vacation With Children Who Have ASD



This training will review the skills, adaptive strategies and advanced planning necessary to help parents and children with ASD to have successful vacations and family outings this Summer. The presentation will be best suited for parents and caregivers who have children under 12 years of age.



**TUES  
MAY 23**  
9 - 10:30 a.m.

**FAU Jupiter Campus, EC Building**

To attend this training *on campus* register at:

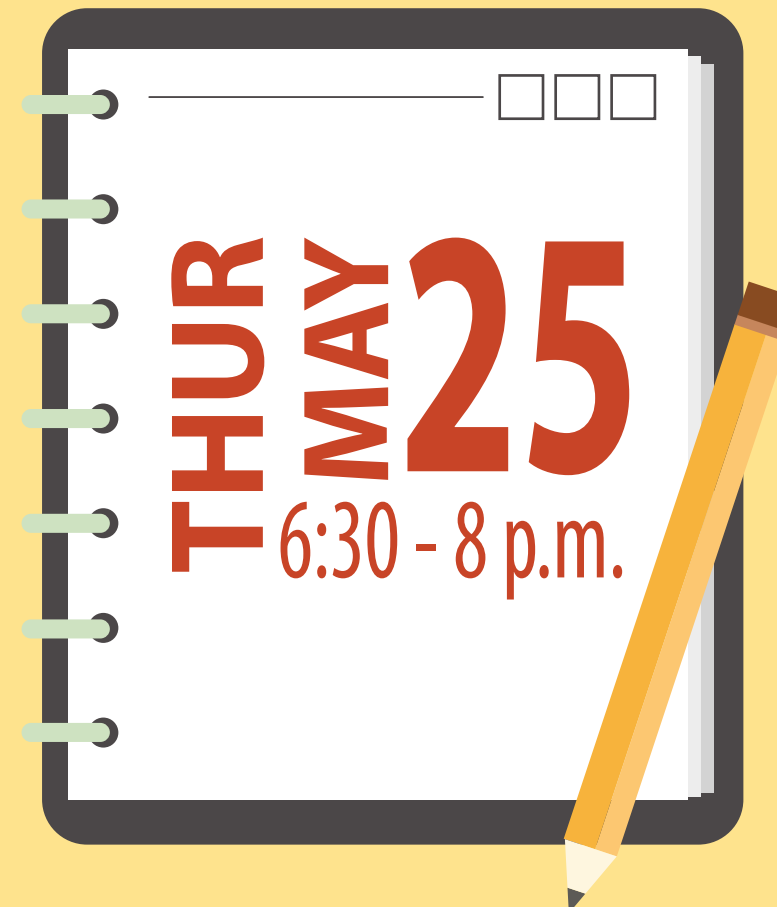
**<https://planning-for-successful-vacations.eventbrite.com>**

Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2017.

For more information please contact Kelley Bastien at [bastienk@fau.edu](mailto:bastienk@fau.edu)

## IEP Notebook

This workshop will provide participants with information on creating and maintaining an IEP Notebook for their child. This is a hands-on workshop, so bring your documentation in order to create your child's notebook. Participants will receive a list of any required materials via email.



**IRSC - St. Lucie West Campus**

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

**<https://iep-notebook-psl.eventbrite.com>**

Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2017

For more information please contact Cathy Allore at [callore@fau.edu](mailto:callore@fau.edu)





## Nutrition & ASD

### Strategies for Teaching Healthy Eating for Teens and Adults with ASD

This training will examine trends in nutrition for individuals with ASD and other developmental disabilities, specific challenges relating to obesity, and then introduce a curriculum that assists individuals with disabilities in developing healthy eating habits. Information from the research of Dr. Linda Bandini and Carol Curtin on the topic of obesity, nutrition and individuals with disabilities will also be shared.

**FRI  
MAY 26**  
11 - 12:30 p.m.

**FAU Jupiter Campus**

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

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

Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2017

For more information please contact Alison Bourdeau at [abourdeau@fau.edu](mailto:abourdeau@fau.edu)



## 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.

This training is geared towards informing you of the effects of stress, things to do to help yourself, and a demonstration on how to use the strategies for self-care tools at home.

**TUES  
MAY 30**  
5 - 6:30 p.m.

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

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

**<https://caregiverfau boca.eventbrite.com>**

Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Monday, May 29, 2017

For more information please contact Miriam Moreno-Duany at [mmorenoduany@fau.edu](mailto:mmorenoduany@fau.edu)



## Transition

### from High School for Middle School Parents

Parents of Middle School students, let's start talking about transition from high school! It may seem early, but it can be helpful to know what programs and services are available for students once they exit high school. We will talk about preparing for independent living, transitioning into post-secondary programs, services for adults, employment and much more!

**MON  
JUN 5**  
1 - 2:30 p.m.

**FAU Boca Raton Campus**

**College of Education, Room 411**

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

**[https://transition\\_middleschoolparents.eventbrite.com](https://transition_middleschoolparents.eventbrite.com)**

Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Friday, June 2, 2017

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

## CAREERSOURCE PALM BEACH COUNTY OFFERS PRE-EMPLOYMENT CLASS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES!



CareerSource Palm Beach County is the first and only regional provider in the state of Florida to have developed a curriculum introducing work readiness in a 20 hour course known as Young Professionals Training 101. Partnering with FAU CARD and Vocational Rehabilitation, CareerSource has been able to provide youth with the tools needed to successfully prepare for the workforce. FAU CARD Clinicians Jennifer Percival and Alison Bourdeau provided autism and transition trainings to CareerSource Youth Services staff as they developed the curriculum for this program.

Young adults who complete the program leave with valuable skills and information such as: financial literacy, job search assistance, interviewing skills, and resume building. Participants are provided with a Virtual Job Shadow account to help them find and research career pathways, as well as to job search. Soft skills such as a firm handshake, eye contact, and interview skills are also covered.

The fourth class concluded March 25th and CareerSource is looking forward to offering classes during summer 2017.





**Tuesday, June 13 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Public Safety Training Complex at Indian River State College  
4600 Kirby Loop Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34981

**Register:**

**[https://tc\\_leo\\_training.eventbrite.com](https://tc_leo_training.eventbrite.com)**

**Presenters:**

**Peter Villasuso**, SLC Fire Rescue Autism Specialist and SLC Fire Dept Benevolent Association Representative  
**Dennis Debbaudt**, Autism Risk Management CEO and International Trainer of Law Enforcement and First Responders

As law enforcement and first response professionals, you are very likely to come in contact with children and adults who have ASD. Everyone in attendance will come away with a good, practical understanding of effective approaches when interacting with individuals who have ASD. The training will offer a thorough review of current trends, special tactics, tips and training options that can help you implement instruction at your agency. This session will feature video illustrations of autism related dispatches and scenarios and will describe special tactics designed to enhance communications and manage sensory influences that can cause behavioral outbursts. Training to enhance critical scene management, decision-making and responder safety skills are the keys to finding success when interacting with a person with ASD. The trainers are all fathers of sons who are on the autism spectrum. Their goal? Combine their insight, information and expertise into a memorable and sustainable training experience for all in attendance!



**Special Thanks to IRSC for Co-sponsoring the event**



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 five working days in advance of the date of the event.



## ABC's of Advocacy

This workshop will provide participants with information on how to be their child's educational advocate. It will cover the do's and don'ts of advocacy as well as the how-to be a better advocate tips. This workshop is a collaboration between FAU-CARD and Educational Advocate, Doreen Franklin.



**THUR**  
**JUN 22**  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**IRSC - St. Lucie West Campus**

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

**<https://advocacy-psl.eventbrite.com>**

Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2017

For more information please contact Cathy Allore at [callore@fau.edu](mailto:callore@fau.edu)

## Strategies for Adolescents to Decode the Social World

This training will provide information on the "Hidden Social Curriculum" as described by Dr. Brenda Smith Myles, as well as go into information related to Theory of Mind and its deficits. Strategies for caregivers to assist teens to apply these to their lives as well as additional resources will be provided.



**FRI**  
**JUN 23**  
11 - 12:30 p.m.

**FAU Jupiter Campus**

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

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

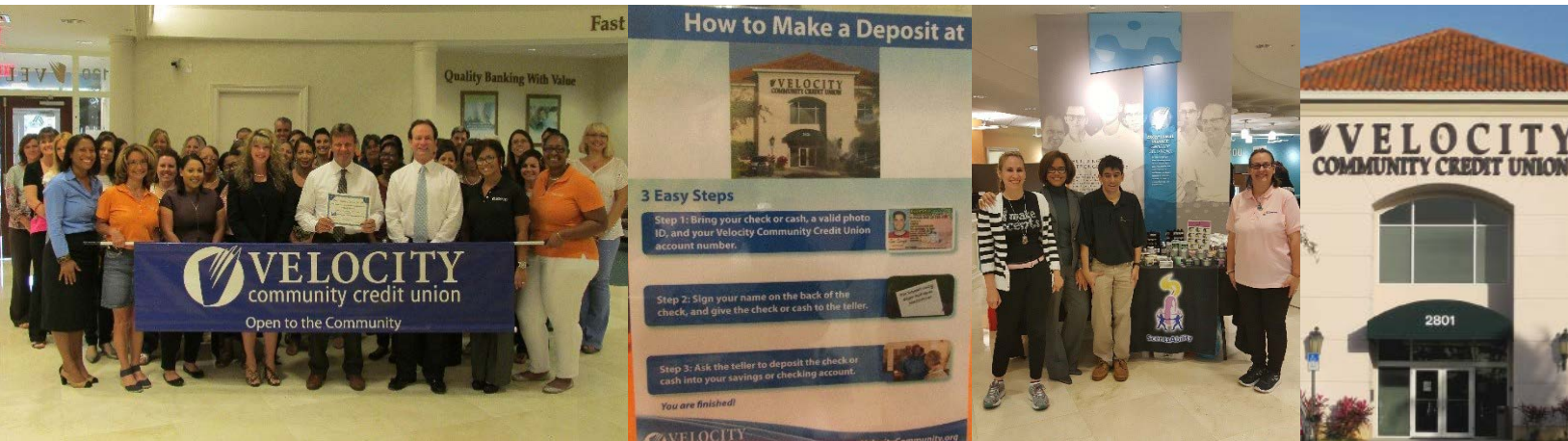
Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2017

For more information please contact Alison Bourdeau at [abourdeau@fau.edu](mailto:abourdeau@fau.edu)



THANK YOU VELOCITY CREDIT UNION FOR YOUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM AND TO FAU CARD

Velocity Community Credit Union, one of FAU CARD’s first Autism Friendly Businesses, was engaged and excited about working with us from our initial encounter. Over the past two years they have hosted a student intern for the summer, created visual supports and built a low-sensory space for customers, collaborated on a financial literacy course for students, supported one of our local microenterprises, and attended many FAU CARD events as both speakers and participants. Thank you Velocity Community Credit Union for your continued commitment to individuals with autism and to FAU CARD!



THANK YOU CITY OF BOYNTON BEACH FOR SUPPORTING FAU CARD



World Autism Awareness Month is April. The City of Boynton Beach celebrates and supported FAU CARD by wearing BLUE every Friday throughout the month of April.

**WHY DID THEY WEAR BLUE?**  
City staff wore blue to draw attention to an estimated 1 in 68 people who are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The city raised awareness in an ongoing effort to support community inclusion for people with autism and their families in Boynton Beach.

FAU CARD thanks the City of Boynton Beach for their ongoing support and for their commitment to creating an inclusive city!

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

SUMMER ACADEMY

FAU Jupiter Campus Lifelong Learning Center

Join us at Summer Academy as we look at effective strategies that will get your year off to a great start. This summer event offers professional development for teachers, related service personnel and other professionals working with individuals with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities. FAU CARD is dedicated to providing evidenced-based practices that work.

BCBA, ASHA and SW/MH/M&F CEUs

Monday, July 24

9 a.m. - 4:30 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.

Tuesday, July 25

9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. Dr. Lee Wilkinson, Ph.D., No BCBA CEUs. CEU credits for ASHA, SW/M&F/MH only.

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.

12 -1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:30-3 p.m. Noelle Balsamo, M.ED, BCBA

*What's Gender Got to Do with It? Exploring the Unbalanced Gender Ratios in the Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)* This presentation will provide an introduction to the unique manifestation of ASD characteristics in the female population. Implications of delayed and misidentification will be discussed, with an emphasis on co-occurring and related conditions common to females on the spectrum. Recommendations for improving recognition of ASD characteristics in females and strategies for supporting timely identification and informed intervention for this underserved population will also be provided.

3 - 4:30 p.m. Alison B. Bourdeau, M.S.Ed.

*10 Evidence Based Tips for Counseling Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.* This presentation will identify unique treatment needs of young adults with ASD. Learn about the latest evidence based strategies for addressing social deficits for this population. Additionally, best practice strategies for addressing common comorbid diagnoses for this population will also be addressed.

.6 ASHA CEUs (Monday and Tuesday), 6 BCBA CEUs (Monday only) and 6 SW/MH/M&F CEUs (Monday and Tuesday) will be available. (\$75 pre-registration; \$90 onsite per day). District in-service points will be provided by district representatives

FAU

CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISABILITIES

Florida Atlantic University

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.

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CAMPS & PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

The 2017 summer camp list has been updated and is now available. You may access the list on our website: <http://coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/card/documents/CampsandProgramsforSpecialPopulations.pdf>



Please note that this compilation of summer camp providers is for informational purposes only. Contact the provider directly for more information when determining if a camp or program is appropriate for you, your child, or family member.

Palm Beach State’s Summer Youth College offers a variety of classes for children of all ages. For more information click on the links below:

Boca Raton: [www.palmbeachstate.edu/syc/boca-raton](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/syc/boca-raton)

Lake Worth: [www.palmbeachstate.edu/syc/lake-worth](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/syc/lake-worth)

Palm Beach Gardens: <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/syc/PBG/default.aspx>



FAU CARD Adult Survey

We need your help



- Responses are anonymous
- Information will help develop adult programming
- Takes only 20 minutes

Click Here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cardadult>

Adult Social Groups



LOCATIONS

Boca Raton  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Apr 17

Monday, May 15

For questions, contact FAU CARD  
[card@fau.edu](mailto:card@fau.edu)

Treasure Coast  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Apr 13  
Thursday, May 11  
Thursday, July 13  
Thursday, Aug 10

For questions, contact Cathy Allore  
(772) 873-3367 or [callore@fau.edu](mailto:callore@fau.edu)

Jupiter

Dates and Times to  
be announced.

For questions, contact Alison Bourdeau  
(561) 990-9518 or [abourdeau@fau.edu](mailto:abourdeau@fau.edu)

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.



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

## **Orientations:**

Social skills are very significant tools to success in the workplace and our community. Individuals with autism spectrum disorder many times struggle with engaging and maintaining conversation with peers and adults. The iRISE<sup>2</sup> Mentoring Program provides high functioning individuals diagnosed with autism the opportunity to engage in a supportive one-to-one mentoring relationship. As a dedicated, professionally trained mentor, you will be able to provide guidance, support and friendship through social engagement and exploring employment interests with your protégé. This orientation will provide mentors with a complete overview of the iRISE<sup>2</sup> Mentoring Program volunteer opportunities.

## **Mentor Requirements:**

- *Must be at least 21 years of age or older*
- *Open to maintaining a 1-year mentoring relationship*
- *Minimum of 4-6 hours a month based on your availability*
- *Valid Driver's License and Auto Insurance*
- *Successfully complete Volunteer Background Screening*

### **Boca Raton iRISE<sup>2</sup> Mentor Orientation**

Tuesday, June 13 (5:30-6:30pm)  
Tuesday, July 18 (5:30-6:30pm)  
Tuesday, August 15 (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 iRISE<sup>2</sup> Mentor Orientation**

Tuesday, May 23 (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



(561)213-6936



dmurra23@fau.edu



# AUTISM IN THE NEWS: THE PROMISES OF CORD BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

By: Judith Aronson-Ramos, M.D.  
[www.draronsonramos.com](http://www.draronsonramos.com)

Recently CNN among other news outlets featured a story about the first results of a study using cord blood stem cells as a treatment for autism. Duke University is conducting research to see if transfusions with cord blood can improve symptoms and behaviors in autism. The currently published research is phase one of what will be a multi-phase study. This is high quality academic research involving reputable researchers at a prestigious university. It merits our attention and it should be closely followed.

In this first phase of the Duke Cord blood study children with autism were given transfusions with their own cord blood at baseline, 6 months, then at a year. Assessments were completed at baseline and post treatment intervals thereafter. The study is what we call open label with parents and doctors aware of who received the treatment. Initial results show parents and physicians have noted significant improvements – this is what grabs the headlines – cord blood stem cells cure autism. But of course it is not so simple. Though this study, and others like it looking at treatments to improve the lives of children with autism should be encouraged and well-funded, we need to go through the lengthy process of validation of preliminary study results. It is important that parents have a context to interpret and follow these exciting research studies. The Duke Study is now entering phase two trials which will be double blind (parents and doctors will not know who is receiving the treatment) and placebo controlled (some children will not get the real treatment). There will also be a control group, children with autism who do not receive treatment for comparison.

The researchers involved in autism studies are often the first to quell the public’s enthusiasm for the headlines reporting positive results. In this study, and many others that have come before this the researchers are cautiously optimistic and often have mixed feelings about early press coverage and being in the limelight prematurely. For example the researchers in this study and other experts were very concerned these early results would lead parents to unnecessarily banking cord blood which can be expensive and consume resources. Basically we need more time, information, and careful analysis before this can become an evidence based intervention. This study may end up with promising results or may not, at this point we just do not know.

It is difficult for parents to be patient when daily life is challenging and they see their children struggling. However, there have been many times a promising intervention in autism has not materialized. Going back to the days of Secretin, Facilitated Communication, Holding Therapy and still interventions with little to no substantive research such as hyperbaric oxygen therapy, B12 injections, IVIG infusions, and chelation therapy have hung on for years without good supporting data. I worry parent’s may seek cord blood transfusion on their own or in other countries. Mexico has offered stem cell transfusions for a host of illness for years, often with outcomes ranging from useless to fatal. My hope is parents will remain cautiously optimistic like myself and the researchers themselves. I hope in the months to year ahead to follow up this article with the results of the phase II, III, and IV trials to come.



# 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/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/groups/131030553607709/?ref=br_rs)

**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
- A Journey of Success: Navigating Systems

## In the Home

- Guardianship Options
- Support for Grandparents
- 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

## 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

## WINGS OF HOPE 2017 HONORING MICHELE WEPPNER





# ABA Therapy Solutions



## Hiring Behavior Therapists!!

Experienced and beginning Behavior Therapists to work with individuals with autism in family's homes and within the community and some private schools.

**BEGIN YOUR CAREER IN AUTISM TREATMENT AND LEARN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA).** If you enjoy working with children and young adults with autism and related disabilities and like making a difference in their lives, then this is your opportunity.

ABA Therapy Solutions works with families in Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, and Indian River Counties and is known for quality, evidence-based family-centered approaches toward successfully making a difference in the lives of children with autism and related disorders.

**As a Behavior Therapist, ABA Therapy Solutions will train qualified candidates in the techniques of Applied Behavior Analysis. We offer:**

- Flexible Part Time and Full Time schedules
- Morning, afternoon and/or evening availability M-F
- Weekend days available

### Training Opportunities include:

Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) Credential Training and supervision

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) internship

Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) internship

### Minimum Qualifications include:

- High School Diploma
- Reliable means of transportation with proof of auto insurance
- Must pass Level 2 background check and local check
- Must have daily access to computer with internet for scheduling and session notes

Located in the SunTrust Building  
in the Monterey Triangle.

### ABA Therapy Solutions

2400 SE Federal Hwy, Suite 220  
Stuart, FL 34994-4556

FAX: (772) 221-9969

Send your resume to [Rebecca@ABASolutions.org](mailto:Rebecca@ABASolutions.org)  
OR

Go to [www.ABASolutions.org](http://www.ABASolutions.org) and complete your application today!!

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



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