

CARD NEWSLETTER

CARD Staff

David O. Childers Jr., M.D.
Chief of Neurodevelopmental
Pediatrics & Executive Director of
CARD

Jeannie M. Potthast, M.B.A.
Assistant Director - CARD

Karen Mullin
Office Manager

Marlena Jenkins, M.S., BCaBA
Lead Clinician

Anne M. Wilson, M.S.T., BCaBA
Clinician

Audrey Bringman, B.S.
Clinician

Chanel Baldwin, M.Ed.
Clinician

Gina Bauer, B.A.
Special Ed. Clinician

Brett Walden, MPH
Clinician

Natalie Borden, MA
Clinician

Autumn Mauch
Executive Assistant

Tyler Rounds, B.S.
Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Flagge, B.S.
Event Coordinator

Anthony R. Rhodes, M.S.
IT Expert

The UF-JAX CARD program provides support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities. Services are provided at no cost. The UF-JAX CARD program provides services to Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, and St. Johns counties.

Understanding Guardianship Options

by Audrey Bringman, M.Ed.

At age 18, individuals in Florida are determined to be the age of majority, meaning, they are deemed able to make decisions about their own life, health care, money matters, and more. This can be a difficult adjustment, or an unreasonable expectation for individuals with exceptionalities or developmental

disabilities. Not to worry, there are options that can allow parents and caregivers to legally help young adults with developmental disabilities make decisions in their best interest. This article will discuss a couple options given to guardians in the state of Florida, but it would be best if parents seek legal counsel when starting this process.

Guardianship takes many different forms; there is limited guardianship or plenary guardianship, and there is also voluntary or involuntary guardianship. Guardianship in itself allows someone to act as a decision maker for all of another individual's estate and needs, usually because there is a disability that prevents someone from being able to make these decisions independently. Plenary or full guardianship is generally the most restrictive form of guardianship, because all decision-making is done by the guardian. So other less restrictive options are typically considered first (Florida Courts, n.d.).

Guardian Advocate is someone, usually a family member, parent, caregiver or friend, who is legally able to make some decisions for an individual with a developmental disability. In this instance, the individual is not necessarily deemed incapacitated and may still have the ability to make some decisions about his or her life or estate,

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Upcoming Events

June 18,
2021

PEPSA Regional Training –
The Impact of Shared Control
and Cognitive Flexibility
Challenges on
Conversational Abilities in
Children with ASD: Strategies
for Intervention Success

June 28

CARD Constituency Board Meeting

Keep up to date on events. Join the
CARD Weekly Update Email
Newsletter.

To sign up please email
Anthony.Rhodes@jax.ufl.edu.

CARD's Mission

To educate and empower individuals and families throughout the lifespan by providing support, assistance, and awareness within the community; with the goal of optimizing the potential of all individuals with autism and related disabilities.

medical care or finances. A developmental disability is defined by Florida Statute §393.063(12), as a person who has one or more of the following diagnoses:

- an Intellectual Disability (IQ less than 70)
- Cerebral Palsy
- Autism
- Spina Bifida
- Downs Syndrome
- Phelan-McDermid syndrome
- Prader-Willi syndrome

This statute goes on to say that the diagnosis must have manifested before the age of 18, and that it causes significant impairment in activities of daily living that are expected to last a lifetime. If your teen or young adult meets this criteria, it would be best to seek an attorney to help with obtaining guardian advocacy. You can generally start this process after your child is 17 and it can be obtained before your young adult turns 18. The DDC may also know about other resources to help you get through this process.

Power of Attorney gives someone the ability to act on another person's behalf. There are different types of power of attorney, such as limited, temporary, permanent. An individual can also designate when a power of attorney takes effect, whether it is immediately or after something happens in the future. Power of Attorney can be specific to finances or medical care, or be general, it just depends on the needs of the individual. This is just a brief overview of a couple of options for guardianship. There are several other options that apply to certain situations, so it is wise to consult with an attorney who

specializes in this area to help you decide which option is best for you and your family.

Pro Tip: To help make this process smooth, maintain a folder or binder with records of all of your child's medical and school evaluations and IEPs or 504 plans, starting at the beginning of your early intervention or exceptional student education or developmental delay diagnosis.

Resources:

Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, Seminole County, FL. (2017, July). *Florida guardian advocate law and information*. [https://flcourts18.org/docs/sem/Florida Guardian Advocacy Law and information Guide.pdf](https://flcourts18.org/docs/sem/Florida%20Guardian%20Advocacy%20Law%20and%20information%20Guide.pdf)

Florida Courts. (n.d.) *Guardianship*. Florida Courts. <https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Improvement/Family-Courts/Guardianship>

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. (2010). *Lighting the way to guardianship and other decision-making alternatives. A manual for individuals and families*. https://www.fddc.org/sites/default/files/file/publications/Guardianship%20Family%20Manual_0.pdf

The Florida Legislature. (n.d.) *The 2020 Florida statutes*. Online Sunshine. http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0300-0399/0393/Sections/0393.063.html



Summer Engagement

By Natalie S. Borden, MA

Ensuring we provide structure and stability, while still cultivating a happy and healthy habitat can be a daunting challenge for any parent or caregiver. But it's also important and healthy to embrace a little leisure when school lets out for summer. We're here to provide you with a few ideas to help your child of any ability have a happy, healthy summer, while still maintaining a routine.

Seek out **summer programs** early! Remember to ask your local schools, community-based organizations, and clubs based on a child's specific ability. If looking to qualify for a scholarship or grant, it may be wise to secure funding early for camps in the early months of the year.

See the Summer Camps and Scholarship Information below

Summer Activities for Parents and Caregivers

Consider taking a **field trip**. Many parks, libraries, nature centers, museums, and zoos are no cost or low cost options to get your family out and about. Many of these places also offer virtual options as an alternative.

Get moving, and **PLAY!** You can play outside or inside, but don't forget to schedule time specifically for you and your child to exercise and burn off some energy. If you don't have access to a local park, you can search terms like "Kids Yoga" or "Kids Movement Activities", walk around your neighborhood/race your child, consider riding a bike or tricycle. Safety tip: Be sure to preview any online videos prior to showing them to your child/teen.

Find creative ways to **incorporate reading and numbers** into your everyday tasks. Go on a live or virtual shopping trip with your child, allowing them to identify the items on your grocery list. Depending on your child's math level, you can practice adding, subtracting or multiplying the prices of items. Invite your child to cook a recipe with you. Having them read the recipe card and measure the ingredients is a nice way to build academic skills in the natural environment. Give your child opportunities to further practice math and science skills by measuring items around the house and making a graph of daily weather/temperatures.

Healthy eating during the summer is just as important as it is during the school year. Encourage and model healthy eating habits by keeping plenty of fruits and vegetables in your household, which

will promote good snack habits. Start by labeling the foods and have your child touch and smell them. As your child is more comfortable, have them taste the fruit or vegetable. Some children may prefer to make a smoothie or juice from the fruit or vegetable.

Do your best to keep a **bedtime routine** regardless of summer or school schedule. This will ensure your child is getting the proper amount of sleep for their development.

Remember that when we help children stay engaged academically and physically throughout the summer, we help set them up for success in the new school year.



SUMMER CAMPS

Catholic Charities Camp I Am Special

235 Marywood Drive, St Johns, FL 32259, United States

(904) 230-7447

CampIAmSpecial@ccbjax.org

<http://www.dosacamps.com>

We provide a 6-day recreational, overnight camp for persons who have physical, emotional, or mental disabilities.

Camp Boggy Creek

30500 Brantley Branch Road, Eustis, FL 32736, United States

866-462-6449

info@campboggycreek.org

<http://www.boggycreek.org>

During each of our summer sessions, up to 150 children with like abilities arrive for a week of fun, adventure, and independence. The prescription for the day is fun, fun, fun! Laughter, giggles, friendships, and excitement abound on the 232 acres of tall pines, majestic oaks and nature trails.

The Jericho School

1351 Sprinkle Drive, Jacksonville, FL, United States

904-744-5110

jerichoschool@yahoo.com

<http://www.thejerichoschool.org/#!intensive-sum...>

The mission of The Jericho School (nonprofit 501 (c) 3 corporation) is to provide comprehensive, individualized science-based education not otherwise available in our community. We believe those children with autism and other developmental delays deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Angelwood

4674 Hood Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257, United States

(904) 288-7259

<http://angelwoodjax.org/cms2/summer-camp/>

Angelwood Summer Day Camp is for children ages 5-22 with special needs. By providing a fun and safe environment, campers flourish while giving parents support they need to maintain their jobs when school is out. Camp is the perfect opportunity for kids to play and experience new things.

Camp Abilities North Florida

1517 Ball Road, Green Cove Springs, FL, United States

904-556-9287

campabilitiesflorida@gmail.com

<https://www.campabilitiesflorida.com/>

Camp Abilities is a developmental sports camp for students with visual impairments. This year will be our first annual camp. The ages of the

participants ranges from Age 9-Age 16. The week will consist of camping, s'mores, camp fires, cook outs, and all the fun that goes with it.

LifeSkills Summer Camp

12443 Joda Ln E, Jacksonville, FL, United States

904-701-9381

heather.lifeskillsoutreach@gmail.com

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

Summer Life Skills Program LifeSkills Outreach and Learning Supports (LOLS) is a non profit organization dedicated to providing transitional services for youth with disabilities. Our center, Jacksonville LifeSkills Center, a division of LOLS, provides educational services and Life Skills training throughout the year in a natural home like environment.

Camp Hope

Hope Haven, 4600 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL, 32207 United States

904-346-5100

<http://www.hope-haven.org>

Camp Hope provides a summer camp enrichment program for youth and young adults with physical and/or developmental disabilities aged 3-22. Hours of operation are 7:30am-5:30pm. Our summer fun camp provides traditional camp activities such as field trips, sports, and arts and crafts as well as meaningful skills development for campers.

Careers 360

3856 Grant Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32207, United States

904-399-8484

vanessab@theilrc.org

This week-long summer camp provides career readiness skills for student's age 15-21 who have disabilities. We will be focusing on four core topics: career exploration, work readiness training, work experience, and self-advocacy. Our goal is to empower students to live independent lives by obtaining these skills.

Camp Wego

2550 West Dunnellon Road, Dunnellon, FL,
United States

352-445-2044

352-445-2044

info@campwego.com

[Http://campwego.com](http://campwego.com)

Camp Wego is a great alternative to summer camps. Camp Wego offers high-quality tours for children and adults with special needs year around. Our travel programs are specialized for travelers with Developmental Disabilities, Autism, Learning Disabilities, ADHD and Asperger's syndrome. At Camp Wego, we are always on the go.

Sensory Towne Summer Camp:

Dates: June - July

Attendance: 1pm - 5pm (physical)

Who: Ages 3-9

Where: 8380 Baymeadows Road, Suite 6.
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Cost: \$40/ day or \$200/ week. \$35.00 application fee.

Description: Includes a snack, resource class such as yoga, dance, art or music. Different weekly themes.

We Rock The Spectrum Summer Program:

Dates: June - July

Attendance: M-F: 9am - 1pm (After care available until 3:00)

Who: Elementary and Teens

Where: 9357-3 Philips Highway, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Cost: 2 Days a Week (T/R) = \$100 / 3 Days a Week (M/W/F) = \$150 / 5 Days a Week (M-F) = \$250

Description: Sessions will include group lessons & activities, social skills activities, arts and crafts, and open play on the equipment!

YMCA Summer Day Camp:

Dates: June 7- August 6

Attendance: M-F: 6:30am - 6pm (Varies by Location)

Who: Ages 5-15

Where: Brooks YMCA, Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties

Cost: Financial Assistance is available for all who qualify; specialty rates for Military & YMCA members.

Description: Each week, a new theme will help campers Learn, Explore, Accept and Play as they discover new skills, build self-confidence and feel a sense of achievement and belonging.

Shepherd of the Woods Day Camp:

Dates: June 30- July23

Attendance: M-F: 9am - 3pm

Who: School Age

Where: 7860 Southside Blvd Jacksonville, FL 32256

Cost: \$450/ Session

Description: This extended school year program provides enrichment, maintenance, and remediation of academic skills in a fun, values-based environment. Students enjoy structured learning activities in a blended learning environment that includes small group instruction, collaborative work, and computer-assisted instruction. Students will develop social, emotional, and academic skills through hands-on learning.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

HEAL awards grants in spring (Summer Camps and Programs) and fall (Equipment Request) of each year. If you have questions on HEAL's grant giving policies, please email us at Jason@HealAutismNow.org or call 904-716-4198.

Consider contacting charitable organizations and fraternal organizations (such as the Lions clubs, Kiwanis, and Rotary Clubs, all of which sponsor special-needs camps).

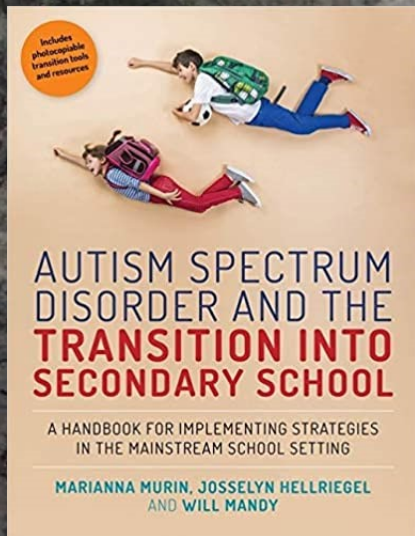
Depending on your child's specific special need, he or she may be eligible for financial aid from your state.

Other sources of scholarships include religious or ethnic charities.

Also see the side by side comparison chart below for the Gardiner and McKay Scholarship.

Eligibility & Fund Information	Gardiner	McKay
Child must have a defined disability	Yes	Yes
Family can receive while child is enrolled in public school	No	Yes
Child must have been enrolled in public school the year before application	No	Yes
Child must have an IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan	No	Yes
Family can receive while child enrolled in private school	Yes	Yes
Family can receive if child is homeschooled	Yes	No
Funds can be used for private school tuition	Yes	Yes
Funds can be used for therapy	Yes	No
Funds can be used for educational materials	Yes	No
Family must reapply each year	Yes	No

Now available in the CARD Lending Library:



Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Transition into Secondary School, by Marianna Murin, Josselyn Hellriegel, and Will Mandy

An effective evidence-based program, this practical handbook provides everything schools need to make the transition from primary to secondary school as smooth and successful as possible for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The resources can be used in a pick and choose way based on the individual needs of the child. Developed and trialed extensively by the Social Communication Disorders Clinic at Great Ormond Street Hospital, this handbook will be an invaluable resource for SENCOs, teachers, autism support workers, educational psychologists and other professionals working with pupils with ASD.

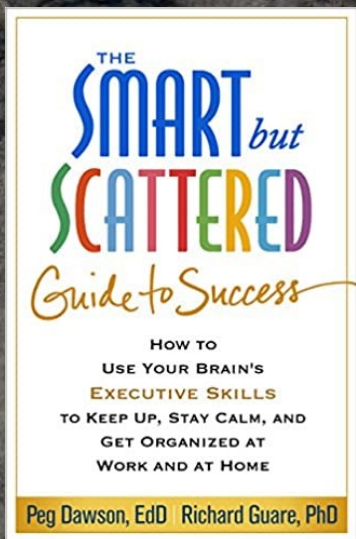
Capturing the Motivation of Children with Autism or Other Developmental Delays, by James W. Partington

A analysis of motivational factors involved in both structured teaching sessions and everyday activities. Methods are presented to identify and capture motivational factors that influence the child's willingness to participate in learning activities. This book provides research-based, practical information in a non-technical manner to parents, educators and other professionals who interact with or teach individuals with autism or other developmental delays. This book is designed to be easy to read for those who have the motivation to help but have not had extensive technical training in the concepts being presented.



The Smart but Scattered Guide to Success: How to Use Your Brain's Executive Skills to Keep Up, Stay Calm, and Get Organized at Work and at Home, by Peg Dawson and Richard Guare

Peg Dawson and Richard Guare help you map your own executive skills profile and take effective steps to boost your organizational skills, time management, emotional control, and nine other essential capacities. The book is packed with science-based strategies and concrete examples, plus downloadable practical tools for creating your own personalized action plan. Whether on the job or at home, you can get more done with less stress. A guide for those lacking strong executive skills--the core brain-based abilities needed to maintain focus, meet deadlines, and stay cool under pressure.



Presented by UF Health CARD and FDLRS-MDC



When a child is diagnosed with a developmental disability, the entire family is affected. Sibshops are engaging and interactive workshops that offer support and guidance, while allowing siblings to share the challenges and celebrate the joys of having a brother or sister with a special need (cognitive, medical, developmental and/or learning disability). We have found that youth open up most about being a sib when they are comfortable, and reinforced for their honesty. For these reasons, Sibshops are a "kids only" zone.

Sibshop age ranges have been expanded and now cover ages 6 through 25 years of age. Breakout sessions will be held for young, tween, teen and young adult siblings.

Families must be registered with one of the statewide CARD or FDLRS programs to participate. Location: Via Zoom Length of Zoom Sibshop: 1 hour.

For more information contact
Audrey.bringman@jax.ufl.edu

Dates & Times: Sibshops will meet the third Wednesday of the month, February-June 2021 from 5pm-6pm.

Upcoming Dates:

Feb 17, Mar 17,
Apr 21, May 19,
& June 16.

Registration link:

<https://UFHJax.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlucO-trz0sHNLhZQchMa12Bhv-0XiBUQTP>



These events are at no cost to the individual or families.



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UFHealth.org