

The “RD” in CARD: What are Related Disabilities and Why Are They Part of CARD?

Reprinted with permission from Donna Gilles

Associate Director, UF— Gainesville CARD

Director, Florida Outreach Project for Children and Young Adults who are Deaf— Blind

In 1993, the Florida Legislature created the system known as CARD, providing non-residential resource and referral, training, individualized and programmatic technical assistance, and public awareness services for and about individuals who have communication and behavioral difficulties with the diagnosis of autism, autistic-like, sensory impairment with additional disabilities, or deaf-blindness. For years prior to CARD’s establishment, parents and professionals had worked hard to get legislators to respond to the needs of families and service providers regarding autism spectrum disorders. At the same time, a project called the “Community Intervention Project for Students with Sensory Impairments and Other Handicapping Conditions (CIP)” funded by the Florida Department of Education, was operating at UF’s Department of Psychiatry (the current home of UF/Gainesville CARD), with Greg Valcante, Donna Gilles, Art Wallen, and Winnie Gayler. This three-year grant provided assistance to families and service providers who lived with or worked with children and young adults who were blind/visually impaired or deaf/hard of hearing with additional disabilities, or deaf-blind (“dual sensory impaired”). After the end of the grant cycle in 1991, CIP parents were promised that they would be able to receive similar services through programs developed in the future. Two years later, that promise was met by being named as a constituency group of CARD.

At first, many people questioned why individuals with sensory impairments and additional disabilities (including deaf-blindness) were considered for services. But the more we find out about the complex characteristics of autism as well as the related disabilities, the easier it becomes to recognize how similar the supports are between groups. One basic difference between constituencies is that individuals who have Autism Spectrum Disorder tend to have difficulties in processing auditory or visual information, whereas individuals who experience vision and or hearing loss accompanied by other disabilities have difficulty in gathering information through the affected sensory channel(s) as well as processing that information. Given this difference though, most individuals in both groups benefit when information is presented in more than one modality, while concentrating on the sensory channel

that provides them the best access to and processing of information. In fact, many established practices such as using schedules and routines, can be found in earlier literature about strategies for people who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind. And of course, using alternative means of communication (e.g., sign language) originated within the deaf/hard-of-hearing culture.

So what is CARD doing for the other part of our constituency? First, we accept referrals for children and adults who would qualify for vision, hearing, or deaf-blind services and who also have cognitive disabilities. Second, we collaborate with the Florida Outreach project for Children and Young Adults who are Deaf-Blind, directed by yours truly, to present topics of interest to a broader constituency at the annual CARD conference. The 2003 conference marked the first time we organized presentations in strands, one of which was the related

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disability strand. Three presentations on literacy, considerations for students with multiple disabilities, and calendars, were as well attended as other strands, a success that supports having future strands on related disabilities.

What can you do? Many of you know other families who have children or teachers who have students who meet eligibility criteria for CARD services, but do not have autism. The individuals may have cognitive disabilities accompanied by a vision loss or a hearing loss, or may have a vision and a hearing loss together. In order for us to represent our constituency better, please encourage them to call us so that we can determine their eligibility to be placed on our registry for mailings or to request assistance.

Community News/Fascinating

Autism Society of Greater Jacksonville (ASGJ) - This local chapter of Autism Society of America (ASA) holds two local support groups monthly at Mandarin and Northside locations. Please contact (904) 343-1346 or autismsocietygjax@yahoo.com

Highrollers II Bowling - This takes place on Saturdays at Bowl America in Orange Park. For more information please contact BASCA at 568-6023.

Tuesday Night Workout - From 7pm—8pm at the Dye –Clay YMCA in Orange Park. This is a time for your special child or adult to get in shape. Please contact BASCA at 568-6023 for more information.

Thursday Night Activity Groups

Orange Park location—841 Plainfield Ave., Orange Park. Each Thursday at 7pm. Crafts, games, music and computers. Call Linda with BASCA at 568-6023 for more information.

Jacksonville location—North Jacksonville Church of God, 7600 Kenya Street. Meets the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7pm. Crafts, games, exercise and music. Call Miriam with BASCA at 768-4896 ext. 16 for more information.

FYI—the toll free hotline for disabled air travelers has been in operation since August 2002 and is not being fully utilized. The hotline serves two main purposes, to educate and to assist in resolving disability—related air travel problems. Air travelers who would like more information, please call 800-778-4838 (voice) or 800-455-9880. Hotline is open seven days a week from 7am to 11pm.

Family Information Network Directory F.I.N.D.—Looking for what is going on in the community? Call to FIND information on upcoming parent workshops, training, conferences, and parent support group meetings. Call (904) 390-2020.

Trips Inc Special Adventures—They provide safe, fun and stimulating adventures for those with developmental and other disabilities, and peace of mind for parents and caregivers. For more information please call 1-800-686-1013.

Cameron's Special T's—These are weighted T-Shirts and accessories for children with special needs. For more information contact (386) 753-1704 or go to their website at www.cameronspecialts.com.

From time to time, JAX CARD will pass on information from outside agencies that might be of interest to our constituents and their families. JAX CARD does not necessarily promote or endorse agencies or information contained in this newsletter. This newsletter is being provided to you for informational purposes only as a courtesy to other agencies.

Quick Tips**Strategies for Preventing Bullying Behavior in Schools** by Carol Gray

- Recognize the commonly held myths that not only impede efforts to address bullying, but also place children at needless physical, social and emotional risk.
- Replace bullying myths with accurate information, and an understanding of the unique profile that bullying takes on when directed at children with ASD.
- Develop and maintain a district-wide initiative to model and teach positive social attitudes and skills for use in the classroom and on the playground.
- Teach developmentally appropriate friendship concepts and skills to teach child with ASD.
- Adopt a definition of bullying that takes into account the social and emotional challenges of children with ASD.
- Implement an individualized, district-wide peer violence presentation program to education children, parents, professionals, and the community at-large.
- Supplement the peer violence prevention curriculum with efforts to teach each child with ASD how to identify and respond effectively to bullying behavior.
- Build and promote the positive self-esteem of each child with ASD.
- Establish a parent-professional team that supports and ensures the safety of all children.

Carol Gray, Director, The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding, Grand Rapids, MI; Creator, *Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations*

Web Watch

<http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=969&f=search> — Year 2004 Tax Benefits for Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities

www.fddc.org—The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council encourages and advocates opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families to enhance their quality of life within their community.

www.usevisualstrategies.com—This is a site dedicated to helping you use visual strategies to improve communication.

www.icantalk.com— They have designed toys and games for pre-school children and children with speech and language delays. All products are in English and Spanish.

www.fathersnetwork.org—Provides resources and support to all men who have Children with special needs.

www.handspeak.com—HandSpeak is an excellent online sign language resource. A new sign is added to the dictionary regularly. Imagine learn just one sign a day.

**CARD Staff**

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Support Groups

NEW GROUP!

Adolescents with Asperger Syndrome Group – A new group this Spring! This group will focus on the issues that face this special age group. Meetings will be held on the **1st Monday** of each month from **4:00pm – 5:30pm** at CARD. On occasion, this group will join with the Adult Group. Contact Dr. Tapia at 737-5239 to register. **3/7/05, 4/4/05, 5/2/05**

Adults with Asperger Syndrome Support Group - Please join us once a month to discuss issues that face adults with Asperger's Syndrome. This group has ongoing meetings at CARD the **2nd Monday** of each month from **6:30pm -8:00pm**. Meeting dates are subject to change. Contact Dr. Tapia at 737-5239 to register. **2/21/05(not 2nd Monday), 3/14/05, 4/11/05, 5/9/05**

Sibshop - Brothers and sisters of children with autism now have the opportunity to meet and talk with other kids whose brothers and sisters have autism. Besides peer support, this group provides participants with the opportunity to learn more about their sibling's disability. At this group, siblings will have the opportunity to share these and other feelings with others who will truly understand. The group will meet 6 times from **3:30pm – 5:00pm** on the following **Wednesdays: 3/2/05, 3/16/05, 3/30/05, 4/13/05, 4/27/05, 5/11/05** at CARD. Contact Dr. Tapia or Mae Barker at 737-5239.

Social Skills Group - Is it difficult for your child to make or keep friends? Does your child have a problem "fitting in" with their peer group? Does he/she spend too much time on solitary activities, such as video games and computers? If you answered "YES" to any of the above questions, then you should consider enrolling your child in this group. Through direct instruction and group learning activities, such as role play and group discussion, your child will be exposed to the social skills geared toward improving in these areas. The group will meet 6 times from **3:30pm-5:00pm** on the following **Wednesdays: 3/9/05, 3/23/05, 4/6/05, 4/20/05, 5/4/05, and 5/18/05** at CARD. Contact Dr. Tapia or Anne Wilson at 737-5239 to register.

Two Feet Forward - During these monthly meetings, we will discuss self determination issues, work experiences and partnerships for time-limited work opportunities. We will also develop real life profiles, resumes and interest inventories. This group is ongoing and meets on the **1st Tuesday** of every month at **6:30pm** at CARD. **Please call Anne Wilson at 737-5239 to register for each meeting.**

Parent/Family Support Groups – These support groups are for individuals and families who want to meet others to discuss the issues in the Autism Spectrum Disorders. The groups meet on a regular monthly basis however parents should call CARD for each meeting's dates, times. Please call to register.

Nassau County Support Group – contact Anne Wilson at 737-5239. Meetings will be held at FCCJ – Yulee Campus Student Union Center

Clay County Parent Support Group – 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 – 8:30pm – 3/3/05, 4/7/05, 5/5/05 - contact Lori Cimino at 737-5239. Meetings will be held at the Middleburg Branch Library.

Flagler County Parent Support Group – 2nd Thursday of the month, 12 – 1:30pm - contact Mae Barker at 737-5239. Meetings will be held at Old Kings Elementary.

Center For Autism and Related Disabilities University of Florida at Jacksonville

CARD is a statewide program of service delivery, funded by the Florida Legislature through the Florida Department of Education. It is the product of dedicated advocacy efforts by family members of the Autism Society of Florida and by concerned professionals. Services are provided to families, individuals, schools, and professionals free of charge.

Individuals of all ages diagnosed with autism, Asperger Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, autistic-like disabilities, dual-sensory impairments, or sensory impairment with other disabling conditions are eligible for services. The Jacksonville CARD serves six counties in Northeast Florida: Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, and St. John's. Referrals are accepted from parents, legal guardians, medical professionals, schools, and community agencies.

Our address:

6026 San Jose Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32217

(904)737-5239

Visit our website at

www.centerforautism.org



April is National Autism Awareness Month!

Take part this April in NAAM and spreading knowledge and understanding about individuals in the Autism Spectrum. ASA has adopted the theme "Rooted in Hope", what's your theme?



Autism Awareness Brochures & Products

- To download free brochures and pamphlets from the Autism Society of America: Go to—<http://www.autism-society.org> (1) Autism brochure (2) Autism Awareness Card (3) Next Steps: A Guide for Families new to Autism (4) Building Our Future: Educating Students with Autism (5) Growing Up Together: A Booklet About Friends with Autism
- To purchase Autism Awareness stickers, button, clothes, bracelets & other gear: Go to—http://www.victorystore.com/magnets/car_magnet/autismmagnets.htm OR http://search.ebay.com/autism-awareness_W0QQsojsZ1QQfromZR40

Quick Fact for awareness:

How is Asperger different from autism?

A child with Asperger experiences no clinically significant delay in cognitive development and does not experience a gross delay in developing language skills.

Other differences are:

- Children with autism tend to think concretely and have much difficulty with symbolic thinking and pretend play, whereas Asperger children can be quite imaginative although themes may be repetitive.
- Asperger children tend to have motor coordination difficulties not seen in autism.

Genetics and Autism

The University of Florida Genetics Team offers monthly genetic consultations at the Jacksonville CARD location.

Geneticist: Charles A. Williams, MD

Genetic Counselor: Melissa Maisenbacher, MS, CGC

Upcoming Clinic Dates:

University of Florida
Division of Genetics
Dept. of Pediatrics
Box 100296
Gainesville, FL 32610-0296
Attn: Melissa Maisenbacher

Wednesday, March 23, 2005
Wednesday, April 6, 2005
Wednesday, April 13, 2005
Wednesday, May 18, 2005
Wednesday, May 25, 2005
Wednesday, June 8, 2005
Wednesday, June 15, 2005
Wednesday, July 6, 2005

Please contact the CARD office at (904) 737-5239 for more information

ATTENTION

The Genetics Team is seeking parents to participate in an Autism Research Study. Please call CARD for more information at (904) 737-5239.



Workshop Almanac

Topics	Date	Time	Presenter	Place	Description
Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders	3/8/05	3:00pm — 4:00pm	Lori Cimino, M.Ed.	Patterson Elementary — Clay County	This workshop provides an overview of autism spectrum disorders and provides a clearer understanding the terminology used to discuss the spectrum.
What is Asperger Syndrome?	3/9/05	7:00pm — 8:00pm	Mae Barker, M.S., BCBA	Middleburg Clay Hill Library	This workshop provides an overview of Asperger's Syndrome and offers participants strategies and interventions that have been found successful in working with this population.
ABA: A Positive Approach to Parenting	3/22/05	3:00pm — 5:00pm	Dr. Kim Lucker	Orange Park Library	This training by Dr. Kim Lucker, a board certified behavior analyst, will discuss ways that parents can apply principles of ABA to teaching their children important life skills and managing problematic behaviors. Time will be devoted for discussion among parents and Dr. Lucker.
ABA: A Positive Approach to Parenting	3/24/05	5:00pm — 7:00pm	Dr. Kim Lucker	CARD	This training by Dr. Kim Lucker, a board certified behavior analyst, will discuss ways that parents can apply principles of ABA to teaching their children important life skills and managing problematic behaviors. Time will be devoted for discussion among parents and Dr. Lucker.
Making the Most of Your Summer Vacation	3 Part Series	Morning & Afternoon Sessions			These workshops are geared towards parents and guardians of children on the autism spectrum. During workshop sessions, parents will learn ways that they can teach their children important life skills during the summer break. Two sessions of each workshop will be made available to participants.
PART 1 Ways to Continue Academic Learning	4/20/05	Session A 9:00am— 11:00am Session B 1:00pm— 3:00pm	Mae Barker, M.S., BCBA	CARD	This workshop will focus on activities that can promote the acquisition and maintenance of academic skills (reading, math, writing). Making these activities fun as well as educational will be stressed. Each participant will create a list of activities during the workshop that he or she can use during the summer. Participants will practice implementing activities through role-play with the educational coordinator leading the workshop.

Register for these exciting workshops on page 9....

All workshops are free and open to parents, teachers, caregivers and anyone else interested. Please make sure to register for workshops either by phone or fax. Low pre-registration may cause a workshop to be rescheduled.

Workshop Almanac

Topics	Date	Time	Presenter	Place	Description
PART 2 Ways to Promote Language Acquisition	4/27/05	Session A 9:00am— 11:00am	Mae Barker, M.S., BCBA	CARD	This workshop will focus on activities that can promote the acquisition of functional language skills. Participants will learn how to prompt and reinforce language use during everyday activities (examples: while eating a snack or taking a walk). Participants will practice teaching language through role-play with the educational coordinator leading the workshop.
		Session B 1:00pm— 3:00pm			
PART 3 Ways to Promote Social Skill Development	5/4/05	Session A 9:00am— 11:00am	Mae Barker, M.S., BCBA	CARD	This workshop will focus on activities that parents can set up with a sibling or peer to promote relationship development. Parents will learn how to identify activities that can be used to facilitate social skills and how to adapt these activities based on the functioning level of their child. Teaching children social rules and prompting conversational language will also be emphasized.
		Session B 1:00pm— 3:00pm			

Register for these exciting workshops on page 9....

All workshops are free and open to parents, teachers, caregivers and anyone else interested. Please make sure to register for workshops either by phone or fax. Low pre-registration may cause a workshop to be rescheduled.

Summer Camp Info

Developmental Disabilities

Clay Family YMCA

Angelwood Day Camp
Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church
Phone: 288-7259 ext. 16
Contact: Erin LaVecchia
www.angelwoodjax.org

3322 Moody Road
Orange Park, FL 32065
Phone: 272-4304

*Children ages 5-15 – Summer day camp program in Clay County and for Duval county at West Riverside Elementary. Open Mon-Fri 6:45am – 6:00pm.

Baptist Association for Special Children & Adults (BASCA)

Phone: 568-6023
www.bascainc.net
*Camp Promise and Camp Care ages 14 or older.

The Webb Center at Hope Haven

4600 Beach Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207 Phone: 346-5100
*Summer Fun Camp for children and adults ages 5–21.

Easter Seals Camp Challenge

31600 Camp Challenge Road
Sorrento, FL 32776
Phone: (352) 383-4711
Contact: Jennifer Gallagher
www.fl.easter-seals.org

*Offers overnight summer sessions and monthly respite weekends for children and adults, ages 6 and older.

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Inc. – Smile Camp

1000 Shearer Street
Jacksonville, FL 32205
Phone: 388-4653 or 1-800-347-2688
www.girlscouts-gateway.org

*Smile Camp offers a one-week camp program for children with

Diocese of St. Augustine

134 East Church Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: 356-0810 *Ages 6-30

Camp Endeavor

P.O. Box 910
Dundee, FL 33838
Phone: (863) 439-1300

*Deaf and hard-of-hearing children, ages 8-16, their hearing siblings, and hearing children whose parents are deaf or hard-of-hearing.



Sensory Impairments

Division of Blind Services Children and Families Program

1809 Art Museum Drive-Suite 201
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Phone: 1-800-226-6365 or 348-2730
<http://www.state.fl.us/dbs/index.shtml>

*Sponsors a portion of the cost for those wishing to attend the **Florida Lions Camp** in Lake Wales, Florida.

Florida School for the Deaf and Blind

207 North San Marco Avenue
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 827-2383
www.fsdb.k12.fl.us

*Residential and Day camps for children who are deaf/hard-of-hearing or visually impaired.

YMCA Hearing Impaired Camp

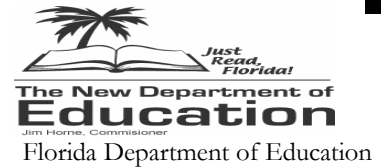
2001 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: (850) 942-4129

*YMCA Camp Indian Springs offers one-week of overnight camping for children who are hearing-impaired.





AND



Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

are excited to announce a regional workshop for school personnel and parents presented by

Marcia Grek, Ph.D

Director of Curriculum and Instructional Projects
Florida Center for Reading Research

Reading Assessment and Instruction for Students with Special Needs

Tuesday April 26, 2005

Registration begins at 8:15 am Presentation is from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Shands Jacksonville, Towers Building
580 W 8th Street, 10th Floor, Coleman Room

Marcia Grek, PhD, is a reading educator with extensive experience in professional development and expertise in teaching struggling readers, Dr. Grek is the director of the Curriculum Team and the K-1 Instructional Team. She leads the Center's review of curricula and the development of instructional materials.

The conference will provide detailed information on (1) reading assessments and instructional strategies to facilitate skills such as phonemic awareness, vocabulary acquisition, and reading comprehension; (2) recent research on reading instruction and implications for teaching students will be discussed, (3) resources for parents and teachers, and (4) information on reading programs and projects associated with the Florida Department of Education.

Registration Form

Marcia Grek, PhD presenting: Reading Assessment and Instruction for Students with Special Needs

Name: _____ Position: _____

School: _____ Are you ESE? Yes No Out of field? Yes No

School Address: _____

School Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ FAX: _____

FAX or mail your registration form to: CARD, 6026 San Jose Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32217. FAX number is (904) 396-4718

Other Workshops and Trainings

Any of the previous listed or currently listed trainings can be scheduled upon request for schools, other agencies, after school care programs, small groups of parents, or other professionals working with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Related Disabilities or Dual-Sensory Impairments. Contact the CARD office at (904) 737-5239 for more information.

FAX YOUR REGISTRATION FORM TO CARD TODAY!!!!

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

I would like to register for the following workshops:

- 3/8/05, 3:00pm—4:00pm, Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders
- 3/9/05, 7:00pm-8:00pm, What is Asperger Syndrome?
- 3/22/05, 3:00pm—5:00pm, ABA: A Positive Approach to Parenting
- 3/24/05, 5:00pm—7:00pm, ABA: A Positive Approach to Parenting

Don't forget to register for
 Marcia Grek, Ph.D
*Reading Assessment and
 Instruction for
 Students with Special Needs*
 on
 April 26, 2005

Making the Most of Your Summer Vacation Series

Session A

- 4/20/05, 9:00am—11:00am, Ways to Continue Academic Learning
- 4/27/05, 9:00am—11:00am, Ways to Promote Language Acquisition
- 5/4/05, 9:00am—11:00am, Ways to Promote Social Skill Development

Session B

- 4/20/05, 1:00pm—3:00pm, Ways to Continue Academic Learning
- 4/27/05, 1:00pm—3:00pm, Ways to Promote Language Acquisition
- 5/4/05, 1:00pm—3:00pm, Ways to Promote Social Skill Development

Summer trainings to be announced, however sign up early for...

- 6/23/05, 9:00am—4:30pm, Standing up for Me with Kay Younginger

**FAX or mail your registration form to: CARD, 6026 San Jose Boulevard,
 Jacksonville, Florida 32217. FAX number is (904) 396-4718**



Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

University of Florida at Jacksonville
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
6026 San Jose Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32217

Phone: 904-737-5239
FAX: 904-396-4718
Website: www.centerforautism.org

April is National Autism Awareness Month.....

Experiencing life with those in the world of autism gives us a different lens, lending new vision to everything taken for granted and hurried past on the way to notions of life's greater priorities.



Reprinted from *Souls Beneath and Beyond Autism 2005 Calendar*

To order your own calendar visit www.starfishpress.com or www.booksthattouch.com

The CARD staff can tailor a training to meet your needs, let us hear from you!