

CARD NEWSLETTER

CARD Staff

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

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

Maria R. Tapia, Ph.D.
Psychological Consultant

Anne M. Wilson, M.S.T., BCaBA
Educational Coordinator/
Transition Specialist

Elise Summa, M.A., BCBA
Clinician

Katrina Ressa, B.S., BCaBA
Clinician

Carrie Fagen, M.Ed
Clinician

Audrey Bringman, B.S.
Clinician

Chanel Baldwin, M.Ed.
Clinician

Candice Rosenberg, M.Ed
Educational Coordinator

Michele Bell-Badger, MA, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist

Shannon Knagge, Psy.S.
School Psychologist

Jennifer Flagge, B.S.
Event Coordinator

Anthony R. Rhodes, M.S.
IT Expert

Autumn Mauch
Executive Assistant

Karen Auger
Office Manager

Lorena Ponce
Referral Coordinator

Yvonne Smith
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Shakeita Lewis
MA /Customer Service Rep

Tyler Rounds, B.S.
Administrative Assistant

Johnetta Blunt
Medical Assistant/CSR

Jay Brown
Percussion Specialist

Decisions Making Options for Adults with Disabilities

By Audrey Bringman

When adolescents reach age 18, they become an adult and are legally able to make "grown-up" decisions. Some adults are happy about making independent decisions regarding money and health, others may want help from a close friend or family member and others may need someone to make many of the important decisions for them. It is important to understand that there are legal ways to obtain formal decision-making assistance. When the proper legal documentation is in place, it will make the transition from childhood to adulthood much smoother. Youth and families should start thinking about this and making legal plans at age 17. It is important to always consider the least restrictive option so that the young adult can still exercise appropriate decision-making skills.

For more information, watch this video:

<http://youtu.be/CpvIyfiRjRM>

Useful websites when considering guardianship, power of attorney, or surrogacy laws and options:

<http://www.guardianship.org/index.htm>

http://www.gottransition.org/UploadedFiles/Document/27/FA_GTFinalCompToSend.pdf

<http://www.floridabar.org/tfb/TFBConsum.nsf/0a92a6dc28e76ae58525700a005d0d53/e8fd739d221b11c085256b2f006c5a4e?OpenDocument>

Upcoming Events

Aug 16 5th Annual First Coast Surfers for Autism Beach Festival

[Click here for information](#)

Aug 20 CARD 101: Orientation for Students 14 and Older (Including Adults)



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.

The Summer Is Here!

By Candice Rosenberg, M. ED

If you are like me you are probably asking yourself how the summer get here so quickly.

My child who was doing so well this school year with structure and a schedule is now having a hard time because he is no longer in that school environment. What do I do?

Our children thrive on structure and a schedule, so let's look at how we can do that at home.

Does your child need a picture schedule or can it be written? Do2Learn.com is a great site that will help you make those schedules. My jobchart.com is another free site to assist you in making a job chart.

Children like boundaries and rules. It gives them a sense of safety. That is especially true with our children. What are the rules and what are the consequences? How are you going to teach your child what the rules are? Can you use the same behavior plan that your child was used to doing in school?

For example; If Joey has a tantrum while getting dressed to go to the pool he does not get to go to the pool until he calmly gets dressed. You are going to ignore the meltdown .You will talk to Joey when he is calm.

What activities are there for my child? Check out Jax4Kids.com. It is a great site and will tell you what camps and events are in town. Movie theaters often have sensory friendly movies. Ask about them at your local movie theater and also check out our CARD newsletter and website for dates and times.

The summer time is a great time to focus on those teachable moments and daily living activities.

For example;

Meal time is a great way to teach your child and have fun doing it. Your child can improve his language skills, social skills and cognition by just helping you make the mashed potatoes and setting the table.

Yes summer is here embrace the time you get to spend with your child. Embrace patience while everyone gets settled into the new summer routine. Please remember that our CARD staff is here to support and guide you, so please do not hesitate to call 633-0760.



Like to be added to our email listserve?

CARD produces a weekly email newsletter showcasing the months autism related community events.

Email your name and email address to Anthony.Rhodes@jax.ufl.edu.



CARD Jacksonville now has its own Facebook page. We'll be keeping the Facebook community updated on our trainings and other local events relevant to families, teachers, and professionals in the Jacksonville area.

Most of the items listed in our Weekly Update Newsletter will also be featured on Facebook. You can access the new Facebook page by going to

<https://>

www.facebook.com/

[AutismJacksonville](https://www.facebook.com/AutismJacksonville)

"Like" us to add our posts to your news feed.

Summer Safety

By Elise Summa

Summer can be a wonderful time for families to take a break and spend some much needed leisure time together. In Florida, the heat often means trying to cool off with water activities. Although it is not pleasant to think about, safety for children on the spectrum is a major issue and there can be increased concerns at this time of year.

Consider this information from the Autism Wandering Awareness Alerts Response and Education (AWAARE) Collaboration website:

<http://awaare.org/about.htm>



According to the National Autism Association, in 2009, 2010, and 2011, accidental drowning accounted for 91% total U.S. deaths reported in children with autism ages 14 and younger subsequent to wandering/ elopement. Sixty-eight percent of these deaths happened in a nearby pond, lake, creek or river.

There are various reasons someone with autism may wander. More often than not, he/she will wander to something of interest, especially water, or away from something that is bothersome, such as uncomfortable noise or bright lights.

Outdoor gatherings present a unique challenge since it is often assumed there are more eyes on the child or adult with autism. However, heavy distractions coupled with an over-stimulating setting can lead to a child or adult wandering off without notice.

Wandering and elopement tend to increase in warmer months, especially in mid-section areas of the US where home layouts and routines are adapted to accommodate changing weather. Persons with autism are also more likely to play outside or attend summer or day camps during this time.

The AWAARE website has many helpful hints and strategies for increasing the safety of children with autism. If you would like help with developing a safety plan, or uncovering local resources, such as swim instruction, a CARD Clinician would be happy to assist you.



We Have An App For That

Welcome to the Lazy days of summer! Trying to find apps that will maintain and entertain your students during the summer months can be difficult to find. Our speech-language pathologist has a few suggestions that you might find interesting. Two of the featured speech apps this month have recently gone free for a limited time but they are only for the iPhone and/ or iPad so "Hurry!" "Hurry!" "Hurry!"

The first speech app is called "**Social Skills Builder**" (Full Edition). It features video scenarios of real interactions in preschool, elementary, middle, and high school and community settings. At the end of each module is a series of questions based on the various scenarios that were presented.

The second speech app is called "**Articulation with The Speech Wizard**". One of the nice features within this app is a sound development chart, which lists the approximate ages for speech sound acquisition. Along with the sound development chart you will find a record button and activities such as speech sound discrimination tasks, flashcards, consonant blends, word, phrase, & sentence levels, and a data tracking system.

The final two apps, which are free for a limited time, deal with reading comprehension and print awareness. "**Tap N Learn – Learn to Spell**" allows students to listen and learn words, match letter blocks to form the name of the object or item, and drag blocks to form words.

Finally, the "**World's Worst Pet Vocabulary (I-Ready)**" app aligns with Florida Standards for Vocabulary Acquisition and Use along with Literature and Information Text. This app is great for grade levels 4th -8th.

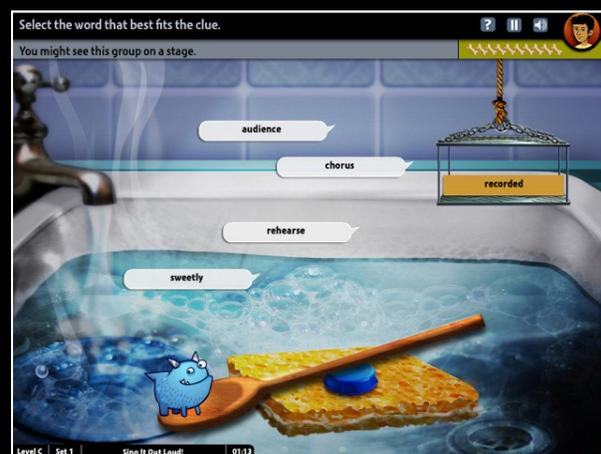
Have a Great Summer!



Social Skills Builder Full



Articulation with The Speech Wizard



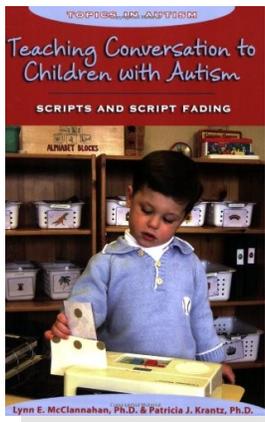
World's Worst Pet Vocabulary



Summer Reading

Sculpture by Veska Abad (Abadoza @ Etsy.com)

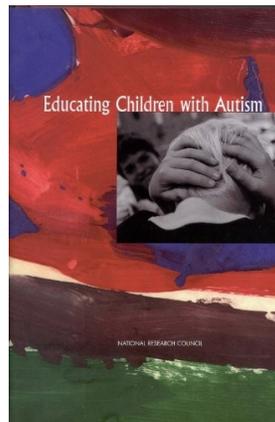
Now Available In the CARD Lending Library



Teaching Conversation to Children with Autism: Scripts and Script Fading

by L.E. McClannahan, Ph.D. & P.J. Krantz, Ph.D.

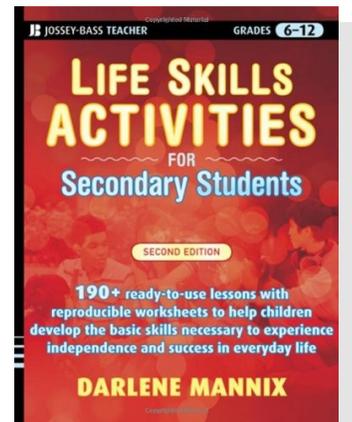
Describes scripts that parents and teachers can use to help children learn to initiate conversation, thereby improving communication. The authors have successfully used scripts and script-fading techniques based on their clinical observations and research, and founded on applied behaviour analysis principles.



Educating Children with Autism

edited by Catherine Lord & J.P. McGee

Explores what makes education effective for the child with autism and identifies specific characteristics of programs that work. Recommendations are offered for choosing educational content and strategies, introducing interaction with other children, and other key areas.



Life Skills Activities for Secondary Students with Special Needs

by Darlene Mannix

Provides 22 complete teaching units and over 200 reproducible worksheets focusing on basic life skills such as handling money, succeeding at school, using the internet safely, getting and keeping a job, and much more.

Ask out staff at the front desk how you can borrow books from the CARD Lending Library.