



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

CENTER FOR AUTISM AND
RELATED DISABILITIES

What Does CARD Do?

Our work focuses on providing individuals on the Autism Spectrum, as well as their families, communities, organizations, agencies and service providers with the knowledge and skills to support success for individuals in early intervention, school, community, work, and home settings. In our work, we address issues that impact individuals across the life span. Our services are consultative in nature. The center is not someplace a child or adult goes for services or therapies.

Here is what we do:

- We provide support (phone consultation, school observations and recommendations, community consultation or home consultation, depending on the issues) to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families and service providers. Our staff may be asked to offer families or professionals strategies or information on the best evidence-based ways to increase skill development or to address behavioral concerns. We may do this by meeting directly with the professional or family, by offering phone or videophone support, by observing the individuals in natural settings, depending on the nature of the concern and situation. Our goal is to collaborate with the person's team and family members to suggest appropriate services and supports so that the person can be successful in the current situation. Families may register at www.ucf-card.org.
- We provide regional parent education seminars to help families of individuals with Autism or a related disability to learn strategies to support development of communication, social skills, independent functioning skills, appropriate behavior of their son or daughter, as well as informational seminars to increase knowledge, confidence, family functioning and advocacy skills. We also offer parent support groups in a variety of locations or partner with other community agencies who offer such groups.
- We assist educators in school and childcare setting, and employers, to understand the needs, effective strategies, and supports needed to increase success for our clients in their natural environments through on-site consultation, at the request of the organization. To request consultation, you may [complete this form](#).
- We assist the Florida Department of Education to develop and provide training to educators and other professionals. Some of these materials are available online; others are available as face-to-face presentations, on CDs, DVDs, or in print. To request training or consultation, you may [complete this form](#).
- We provide a free electronic newsletter, "The Report CARD" delivered at monthly to our registered families, adults, and professional colleagues.
- We maintain an active website that includes information on Autism Spectrum Disorders, and CARD and local items of interest to our constituency. Our website links to information about resources about Autism and related disabilities, and provides a list of training events and other valuable information.
- We organize and conduct regional and statewide training events and an annual statewide Autism Conference. Each year, regional workshops are organized on topics of great interest to families and school personnel.