Annual CARD Conference

Each year Florida’s CARD centers hold one of the states largest and most noteworthy autism conferences. The purpose of this annual statewide conference is to provide information on state-of-the-art practices in areas that promote best practices in education, early intervention and quality community based life-styles for individuals with autism, deaf-blindness, and related disabilities.

This year’s conference will take place January 20th through to the 22nd of 2017. For more information go to http://www.cardconference.net/.

The ADOS-2 is a diagnostic tool that has become the standard instrument for assessing autism and PDD across age, developmental level, and language skills. In conjunction with the 24th Annual CARD Conference in January 2017, CARD is offering a 2 day training where participants can learn how to use the ADOS-2 in a clinical practice! This tool is especially pertinent to psychiatrists, psychologists, SLPs, BCBAs and all other professionals who assess and diagnose autism spectrum disorders. The ADOS-2 workshop registration is also now open! Sign up using https://cardconference2017.eventbrite.com.
Every year our center hosts a Fall Family Festival blowout sponsored by The University of Florida—Jacksonville Division of Developmental Pediatrics, Northeastern Early Steps, and the Walgreens Corporation (www.walgreens.com). An awareness event for all families with special needs, the festival offers a number of activities and entertainment for the entire family. Best of all, admission is FREE!!!

Join us for music, dancing, carnival games, and prizes. Enjoy snacks and refreshments. Bring the family and have a group photo taken in our photographer area or let your creative side shine at one of the craft tables.

Participants are encouraged to donate a toy for the UF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities Toybank. The CARD Toybank has been providing constituents and their families with age appropriate toys and educational materials for years now and is dependent on donations from the community to restock its supply.

For more information about the Fall Family Festival email karen.auger@jax.ufl.edu.

www.hscj.ufl.edu/pediatrics/autism
**Healthy Back to School Lunch Ideas.** When planning school lunches this fall, consider including healthy meal and snack options that include fresh fruit, vegetables and protein. For nutritious lunch, after school snack, and easy dinner ideas, check out [www.poweryourlunchbox.com](http://www.poweryourlunchbox.com). Also, beginning August 8, you can take the pledge to pack a healthier lunch box for your child at [http://poweryourlunchbox.com/take-the-pledge/](http://poweryourlunchbox.com/take-the-pledge/) and $1 will be donated to feeding America.

For tips like slicing veggies into shapes, pureeing greens into sauces, and how modeling healthy behaviors can significantly improve a child’s diet go to: [http://nutritionfacts.org/video/tricks-to-get-kids-to-eat-healthier-at-home/](http://nutritionfacts.org/video/tricks-to-get-kids-to-eat-healthier-at-home/)

**CARD-JAX on Facebook.** 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. Search UF Health Center for Autism and Related Disabilities in Facebook. “Like” us to add our posts to your news feed.
The University of Florida College of Medicine - Jacksonville Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Corporation wants every child to experience a pleasant holiday season. It is with this wish that CARD and Walmers host the annual Walmers holiday activities and festivities. Families are invited to join us for HOPE Dinner, a special guest *Wink for children and a visit from a very special guest. This is a once in a lifetime experience for many, but for many who have attended it has been a lasting experience for them and their children.

To be eligible families must first be a constituent of the UF-Jacksonville CARD program and have children between the ages of 0-18 living in the household. Visit the CARD website (http://www.bradford.edu/pediatrics/) or call to download the application form. Each family can only attend once. For more information contact the UF-Jacksonville CARD program.
AMC Sensory Friendly Films

AMC Entertainment and the Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis.

Lights are brought up, sound is turned down, We've expanded our Sensory Friendly Film program to four showings per month.

They have recently expanded their program to four showings every month.

- The second and fourth Tuesday and Saturday
- Family-friendly movies continue to show on Saturday mornings
- Films that may appeal to older audiences now show Tuesday evenings

Movies are show at the AMC Regency 24 in the Regency Center Square. For more information and date and time for upcoming showings go to https://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films.

www.hscj.ufl.edu/pediatrics/autism
SOCIAL SKILLS
BRICK BY BRICK

Helping students develop social skills through LEGO building. Tapping into the love of building, this group can help promote and develop social skills strategies such as:

- Cooperative play
- Turn taking
- Shared interests
- Verbal and non-verbal communication
- Group Problem solving

For ages 8 to 12 years old
Dec. 27 through Dec. 30, 2016
9:30 to 11:30 A.M.
Cost: $150 for 4 days

All sessions take place at the
UF Developmental Pediatric Center,
6271 St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville, 32217.

For more information contact
Katrina.Ressa@jax.ufl.edu
(904) 633-0765