CARD is dedicated to optimizing the potential of people with autism and related disabilities

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What is CARD?
CARD stands for the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. Our CARD, based at the University of Miami and Nova Southeastern University and other regional branches throughout South Florida, serves Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties. We are part of a statewide network of seven university-based CARD Centers throughout Florida with primary funding from the Florida Department of Education. Our mission is to optimize the potential of people living with autism and related disabilities by providing support services to them, their families, and the professionals who work with them.

What Services does CARD Provide?
CARD services are individualized to meet the unique needs of our clients and families. Our four general categories of service include the following:

- Individualized Support & Assistance for Clients & Families
- Training for Clients, Families and Professionals
- Consultation and Technical Assistance for Programs
- Public Education, Awareness, and Community Outreach

All services are provided at no direct cost by highly qualified and trained professionals with extensive experience in the field.

How are CARD Services Accessed?
Accessing CARD services is easy. Simply contact your local CARD office to request assistance with your specific needs. In most cases, you will first be asked to come in to one of our offices to meet with a CARD clinician for an intake appointment. At this intake, you will be asked to provide diagnostic reports or other proof of eligibility for CARD services and sign a consent form to register as a client of CARD. For Miami-Dade and Monroe County clients and families, please contact our University of Miami office. For Broward clients and families, please contact our Nova Southeastern University office.

Clients, families, and other interested parties are also encouraged to visit our website at www.umcard.org for more information about CARD, and to sign up for our weekly e-blast which contains important information about services, trainings, conferences, support groups, and other special CARD and community events.

What is Autism?
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurological disorder which affects the way the brain develops and processes information. ASD is characterized by impaired social interactions, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and unusual, repetitive, or severely limited activities and interests. The term “Autism Spectrum Disorder” incorporates several previously separate diagnoses including Autistic Disorder, Asperger’s Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder—Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.

What are Related Disabilities?
- Dual Sensory Impairment: Individuals with significant impairments in both hearing and vision.
- Sensory Impairments with other disabling conditions: Individuals with either vision or hearing loss in addition to a developmental disability.
- Developmental Delay: Children under age 5 diagnosed with a developmental delay who also present with autistic-like behaviors.
- Genetic Disorders: Individuals with known genetic disorders that present with autistic-like behaviors (e.g., Fragile X Syndrome, Rett Syndrome, Tuberous Sclerosis, etc.)

What is AUTISM YOU + I?
Autism You + I is part of the CARD family of services. It represents the image we at CARD have embraced as an organization since our inception in 1993. Our mission is all about “You + I” and what we as families, friends, and community partners can accomplish together to make our community a better, more inclusive place for people affected by autism and related disabilities.

Together, You + I are making a difference every day in the lives of so many.