

Consider this your “toolbox” – a listing created from personal experience that is intended to help caregivers navigate through the special needs journey. Just click on any of the blue hyperlinks that are imbedded in this listing for immediate access to websites and contacts. If you have questions or additional suggestions, please contact me at chittumjl@gmail.com. I hope you find this helpful! Best wishes ~ Jonica Grey Chittum

GENERAL INFORMATION – NEWS & RESEARCH

[CARD – Center for Autism & Related Disorders \(at USF\)](#)

A local gem at the University of South Florida! CARD provides consultation, instruction and coaching to families and professionals. Sign up for their mailing list to get regular newsletters and important information on workshops, training and special events happening in Tampa Bay.

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at USF

Department of Children & Family Studies

College of Behavioral and Community Sciences University of South Florida

13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., MHC2113A

Tampa, FL 33612-3807

CARD Consultants that have presented to our group:

[Susan Richmond, M.Ed.](#)

Phone: (813) 974-2996

Fax: (813) 974-6115

[Chantell Rodriguez-Del Valle](#)

Phone: 813-974-6155

Fax: 813-974-3290

[Ellie Weber](#)

Phone: (813)974-6119

Fax (813)974-6115

[AUTISM SPEAKS](#)

The nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

General tips for specific life events; Local services finder

[DELSIA – Delivering Scientific Innovation for Autism \(from Autism Speaks\)](#)

[GENERATION RESCUE](#)

Backed by Jenny McCarthy and focused on biomedical treatments, among other things, Generation Rescue is a national non-profit organization providing immediate treatment assistance, information and hope to families affected by autism spectrum disorders.

[Join the Community](#) to immediately connect with others, receive email updates to learn from leading doctors, find local events, and keep up to date on the latest biomedical treatments.

[AUTISM LINK](#)

Support and info for ASD; Great way to stay up to date on the most recent news, upcoming events, discussion forums, resources by state/region. *Very user friendly and informative.*

[TACA \(Talk About Curing Autism\)](#)

Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to educating, empowering and supporting families affected by autism. For families who have just received the autism diagnosis, TACA aims to speed up the cycle time from the autism diagnosis to effective treatments. TACA helps to strengthen the autism community by connecting families and the professionals who can help them, allowing them to share stories and information to help improve the quality of life for people with autism.

[Join TACA - become a member Free!](#) Get newsletters and email updates. TACA provides the latest information, resources, events, including:

[Webinars](#)

[Parent mentor program](#)

[TACA Blog](#)

[Live Chat](#)

[AUTISM CARES](#)

Provides grants for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders during times of crisis or unplanned hardships such as natural disasters and other catastrophic life events.

[AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE \(ARI\)](#)

The Autism Research Institute (ARI) was established in 1967 by autism pioneer and advocate, Dr. Bernard Rimland, who destroyed the claim that autism was caused by poor parenting in his 1964 book titled Infantile Autism. He also founded the Autism Society of America and was the head consultant for the movie Rain Man. In the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, ARI focused much of its efforts on studying and disseminating information on behavioral therapy (i.e., Applied Behavior Analysis), as well as nutrition and diet. In the 1990s, ARI expanded its work to include medical and sensory interventions. ARI has always taken the position that Autism is Treatable and continues to pioneer research and outreach.

The website is extremely comprehensive, providing a wide range of information, assessment tools, clinical research, and guidelines for treatment. There are online discussion groups and targeted information, including:

Autistic Global Initiative

Autism in Adulthood – growing demand for adult services

[AUTISM TREATMENT EVALUATION CHECKLIST \(ATEC\)](#)

[TREATMENT RATINGS FOR AUTISM](#)

[AUTISM FLORIDA](#)

Provides information, supports, services and other resources in Florida to assist families and individuals with autism spectrum disorders and professionals who serve them

[AUTISM FOUNDATION OF TAMPA BAY](#)

Phone: (813) 996-6421

Email: info@autismfoundationoftampabay.org

EDUCATION & EARLY INTERVENTION

[LEARN THE SIGNS – ACT EARLY PROGRAM \(CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION\)](#)

Provides free education materials with information on autism spectrum disorders to share with family, friends, co-workers, and Autism training information for healthcare professionals. Includes videos, PSAs, buttons, e-cards, as well as helpful tools for caregivers to track a child's developmental milestones

[EARLY STEPS PROGRAM – CMS](#)

Early Steps is Florida's early intervention system that offers services to eligible infants and toddlers (birth to thirty-six months) with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay. Utilizes a team based approach with services typically provided in the home.

Referrals should be obtained from your child's pediatrician.

FL contact list: <http://www.cms-kids.com/home/contact/earlysteps.pdf>

[FDLRS \(Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System\)](#)

Provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to district exceptional education (ESE) programs and families of students with disabilities

Pasco, Hernando, Pinellas Service Area:

FDLRS Gulfcoast
2929 County Road 193
Clearwater, FL 33759

Contact:

Nina Gregory, Parent Services/Assistive Technology Resource Teacher

Voice: (727) 774-2618, (813) 794-2618, (352) 524-2618

Fax: 727-794-2117

Email: agregory@pasco.k12.fl.us

PASCO COUNTY SCHOOLS – ESE (Exceptional Student Education)

[Office for Student Support Programs and Services](#)

[Melissa Musselwhite, Director](#) (727) 774-2165

[Jackie Choo, ESE Supervisor, Low Prevalence Programs](#) (727) 774-2602

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS – ESE (Exceptional Student Education)

[Jeannine Welch, Director](#) (727) 588-6032

[Tracy McMannus-Evans, PCS Parent Advocate](#) (727) 588-6062

[Autism Internet Modules](#) are free online modules covering evidence-based practices regarding working with children with ASD

[FL Dept of Education ASD services](#)

[FL Developmental Disabilities Council](#)

PHYSICIANS – MEDICAL SUPPORT

WHOLISTIC PEDIATRICS AND FAMILY CARE – DR. DAVID BERGER

Dr. David is a Board Certified Pediatrician who specializes in holistic pediatric primary care, nutritional and detoxification therapies for autism, ADHD and related disorders and immune dysregulation such as allergies, asthma and autoimmune disorders. They offer a wide range of services, from a specialty in pediatrics to providing preconception/pregnancy care, management of chronic diseases, IV therapy, Hyperbaric therapy, and basic primary care for children & adults.

3405 W. Fletcher Ave

Tampa, FL 33618

(813) 960-3415 - Phone

(813) 960-3465 - Fax

Email: info@wholisticpeds.com

WALESBY FAMILY VISION CENTER

Vision testing & therapy for hidden learning disabilities and visual skills

2510 West Waters Ave.

Tampa, FL 33614

Phone: (813) 915-0755

MANE CENTER- DR. NELSON MANE

Autism treatment, neuropathy, ADHD, Learning disabilities

1602 W. Sligh Ave., Suite 500

Tampa, FL 33604

Phone: (813) 935-4744

Fax: (813) 931-1427

Email: receptionist@manecenter.com

K&H HEALTHKARE – DR. HELENE HUBBARD

Board Certified Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician

Well known for their Developmental-Behavioral Pediatric Evaluation, they review your child's records from birth to the present, study information from extensive questionnaires, perform a comprehensive physical examination, conduct an interactive play-based diagnostic interview and visit with you to discover more about your observations and concerns. Then, they will work with your family to develop an individualized plan for the child!

Multiple locations in Manatee County

Our office is in Drs. Wilkinson's medical office building at

408 Manatee Ave East, Bradenton, FL 34208

Phone: (941) 922-5366

Fax: (941) 894-3487

Email: gethelp@kidsdoingbetter.com

THE AUTISM CENTER at All Children’s Hospital

DR. FLORA HOWIE

(727) 767-2886

DR. JOSE FORADADA III, MD

4710 N Habana Ave Tampa, FL 33614

(813) 874-2000

The MIND – Malka Institute of Neuroscience & Disease

Dr. David W. Malka, Dr. Robert Malka, Dr. T.A. Subramanian, Dr. Qin Gu, Dr. Umamaheswaran

Office Locations:

5622 Marine Pkwy, Suite 21 New Port Richey, FL 34652 (727) 841-7993	2595 Tampa Rd., Suite J Palm Harbor, FL 34684 (727) 442-MIND (6463)	7539 Medical Dr Hudson, FL 34667 (727) 869-2115	11345 Cortez Blvd Brooksville, FL 34613 (352) 597-7447
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KEHOE FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

Drs. Brian and Denise Kehoe are very good with children and take a holistic approach to their care for the entire family. Be sure to [Sign up for the monthly Newsletters](#) which are very informative!

7212 Massachusetts Ave.

New Port Richey, FL 34653

Phone: (727) 859-9700

Email: kehoechiro@gmail.com

REFLEXOLOGY HEALTH, LLC – PAT URBAN

1831 North Belcher Rd., Suite B-4 (located in Safari Oasis Massage)

Clearwater, FL

Phone: (727) 455-3064

Pat is a National Certified Massage Therapist, licensed in the state of FL. She is a Usui Shiki Ryoho Reiki Master and is a Master Reflexologist (RCB). She is a retired board member with the Reflexology Association of Connecticut (RACT), is a member of the Integrative Reflexology Association of America (IRAA) and the Florida Association of Independent Reflexologist (FAIR). Pat established Reflexology Health LLC, in Clearwater in early 2012. Pat attended our meeting in June 2013 to demonstrate stress reduction through Hand Reflexology – “You can have it all in the Palm of Your Hand”.

THERAPY & INTERVENTIONS

BEHAVIORAL CONSULTING OF TAMPA BAY

KELLEY PRINCE, BCBA

Email: info@bcotb.com

Provides quality behavioral services based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. Every program is specifically tailored for each child and implemented in a distraction-free environment by a trained Behavior Therapist.

Now with 3 locations:

Tampa/Northwest Hillsborough: 6951 Pistol Range Rd, Suite 101
Tampa, Florida 33635
Phone: (813) 814-2000
Fax: (813) 814-2004

Wesley Chapel: 3717 Turman Loop, Suite 102
Wesley Chapel, Florida 33544
Phone: (813) 345-8584
Fax: (813) 345-8529

Brandon: 9225 Bay Plaza Blvd., Suite 401
Tampa, FL 33619
Phone: (813) 440-4933
Fax: (813) 440-4916

BUTTERFLY EFFECTS

Provides assessments, testing, therapy, tutoring, IEP support, and respite and companion services to individuals of all ages

Phone: (888) 880-9270

PARC

PARC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities to exercise their independence and experience life to the fullest.

3190 Tyrone Boulevard North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710-2919 ([View Map](#))
Phone: (727) 345-9111
Fax: (727) 345-7130
Email: info@parc-fl.org

Autism Behavioral Center at PARC

Dru Millerwise, M.A., BCBA
Director of Behavior Services
O: (727) 345-9111 ext. 6268
F: (727) 341-6958
amillerwise@parc-fl.org

[BRAIN BALANCE CENTERS](#)

Brain Balance Achievement Centers addresses the root cause of autism, ADD, dyslexia and learning disability by identifying brain deficits and using natural, non-medical forms of stimulation to improve brain function and connectivity. The program takes a whole-child approach, utilizing sensory/motor exercises, academic work and nutrition.

[Larry Polnicky](#), Executive Director, Brain Balance of Oldsmar FL

4022 Tampa RD, Suite 6

Oldsmar, FL 34677

O: (813) 475-6977

C: (404) 271-4681

CHILD DEVELOPMENT & REHAB CENTER

[ABA SERVICES at All Children's Hospital](#)

(727) 767-8303

[Bobbie Vaughn, PhD BCBA](#)

880 6th St S, Suite 440

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

(727) 767-3120

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Dept of Communication Sciences and Disorders, PCD 1017

[Sylvia F. Diehl, Ph.D.](#)

4202 E. Fowler

Tampa, Florida 33620

(813) 974-9816 (Office)

(813) 974-0822 (Fax)

[LYF, Inc. - LEARNING YOUR FUNCTION](#)

Local center dedicated to helping students with disabilities live their life to the fullest!

Focusing on skill attainment, independent choice making, and environment specific learning by maximizing a quality of life approach. Individual and Group Therapy services, Tutoring, Training Programs, After School Care. Parent Groups, Education and Advocacy

[Jim Cracchiolo](#), Director

813-469-2445

26211 County Line Rd.

Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

DANA L. JOHNSON PEDIATRIC THERAPY SERVICES, PLLC

Pediatric occupational therapist, focused on using the principles of sensory integration Working in Trinity and the surrounding areas to empower parents and facilitate their interactions with their children. Within each session, the emphasis is on understanding the individual differences of the child and family members including sensory processing, emotional regulation and social emotional development. In addition, working with parents/caregivers and siblings separately to educate and support their individual needs related to better understanding their child or sibling’s individual profile. Dana is currently completing her PhD in Infant and Child Mental Health and Developmental Disorders, specializing in Autism and related disorders.

Dana L. Johnson, M.S., OTR/L

727.326.7791 (phone)

727.645.5620 (fax)

www.thekidtherapist.com

www.floortime.org

PBS-POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS CORP.

Provide ABA therapy to individuals with behavior challenges and skill deficits that affect their ability to function effectively in home, school, and community environments.

Diana Sanguino, BCaBA, Regional Coordinator

Phone: (855) 832-6727, ext. 1225

Email: dsanguino@teampbs.com

Liz Morales, Administrative Asst.

Phone: (855) 832-6727, ext. 1019

Email: emorales@teampbs.com

LOCAL PROGRAMS/AGENCIES

PASCO P.A.C.K.

P.A.C.K. (Pasco Association for Challenged Kids, Inc.) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing services for disabled children in Pasco County, Florida.

P.A.C.K. was formed in 1997 by **Paula and Barry Cohen**, parents of an autistic child. Frustrated that every summer, Pasco County children with disabilities - unable to attend regular summer programs- had no programs available. After summer school was over, the kids had no opportunity to get out of the house, be away from their families and have the chance to have fun and socialize.

P.A.C.K. provides a summer camp experience where the kids can have fun and be cared for by qualified, trained staff. P.A.C.K. is the only summer program in Pasco County that takes children with ALL types of disabilities. Parents pay a small registration and supply fee. It is funded primarily from private donations and registration fees. Parents can enroll their children confident in the knowledge that they will have the opportunity to learn, socialize and have fun while being cared for by trained, qualified staff.

HOPE YOUTH RANCH

H.O.P.E. stands for Helping Overcome Past Experiences. The mission of H.O.P.E. Youth Ranch is "to foster hope rather than despair, potential rather than limitation, healing rather than hurting, belonging rather than isolation and what the future can be rather than what the past has been."

- **HOPE Ranch Learning Academy** is a McKay funded private school
- **Therapeutic Residential Home** began operations in 2004 and is home to 8 teenaged girls from age 10 to 17.
- **Sibling Homes** with the goal of keeping siblings together in foster care
- **Therapeutic Services** with licensed mental health counselors, child psychiatrist, and behavior coaches use equine assisted counseling in addition to typical therapeutic methods

PROJECT LIFESAVER – Sheriff's Office

Program designed to track & locate lost patients with disorders such as Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome or Autism through the use of wrist/ankle transmitters.

Pasco County Coordinator:

Randy Schoneman, Rschoneman@pascosheriff.org

Office: (727) 815-7119

Cell: (727) 277-7146

DISABILITY RIGHTS FLORIDA Protecting & Advocating for 35 Years

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#) • [Twitter](#) • [YouTube](#)

850-488-9071 • 800-342-0823

Tampa Office - Times Building, Suite 640

1000 N. Ashley Drive, Tampa, FL 33602

<http://www.advocacycenter.org>

OTHER SUPPORT GROUPS

CHADD North Pinellas West Pasco

(Children & Adults with Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder)

Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Palm Harbor Fire Rescue Station No. 65

250 West Lake Road, Palm Harbor, FL

Contact Beverly at north-pinellas-west-pasco@chadd.net

For 1 Small Voice - Autism Support Group

Meets the 3rd Tuesday each month at 6:30

Hope Youth Ranch Learning Academy

17933 East Rd., Hudson FL 34667

Co-directors:

Kathleen Puglisi, (352) 428-2753

Rhonda Coleman, (727) 858-8266

NEW DIAGNOSIS? HELPFUL RESOURCES

Autism Speaks created a 100 day toolkit for newly diagnosed w/high functioning Autism or Asperger's: <http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/100-day-kit>

TACA has also put together some great packets to help families with the initial diagnosis: <http://www.tacanow.org/family-resources/child-newly-diagnosed-with-autism/>

TACA Visual Blueprints Guide to the Autism Journey:

<http://www.tacanow.org/family-resources/autism-journey-blueprints/>

Recommended Movies:

[Walking in the Dark, Finding the Light in Autism](#), a documentary by Triple Knot Productions about families who have children with autism with the primary purpose is to serve as an education tool. Also available on [amazon](#)

[Temple Grandin: HBO Movie](#) starring Claire Danes

Recommended Books:

[Overcoming Autism](#): Finding the Answers, Strategies, and Hope that can transform a child's life, by Lynn Kern Koegel, PhD and Claire LaZebnik

[The Out of Sync Child](#), by Carol Kranowitz and Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR

[The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism](#) by [Naoki Higashida](#) and David Mitchell

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Discussed at monthly meetings:

IEP Tips & Guidelines

- [See My IEP](#)
- [Parent Technical Assistance Center Network](#)
- [Wrightslaw](#) for info on Special Ed law and advocacy for children with disabilities
- [The FATE](#) Foundation for Autism Training and Education – No child with autism left behind

Transition Planning

FL Developmental Disabilities Council: www.fddc.org (Lighting the Way to Guardianship)

Family Care Council: www.fccflorida.org

Project 10: www.project10.info (Transition: A Guide for Families)

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities: www.nichy.org (NICHCY Transition Summaries)

Pacer Center: www.pacer.org – an information and training center for families of children and youth with disabilities

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition: www.ncset.org

Other National Resources

- [Autism Internet Modules \(AIM\)](#)
- [Autism Distance Education Parent Training \(ADEPT\)](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\): Autism Information](#)
- [Council for Exceptional Children \(CEC\): Autism](#)
- [IDEA Partnership Autism Spectrum Disorder Collection](#)
- [IES What Works Clearinghouse](#)
- [National Autism Center: National Standards Project](#)
- [National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\): Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)
- [The National Center for Evidence-Based Practice in Communication Disorders: ASD Map](#)
- [National Center for Children with Disabilities \(NICHCY\): Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)