



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Center for Autism and Related Disorders Opens Schools in Phoenix and Chandler for Individuals with Autism from Ages Five to 22

The schools, named CARD Academy, are licensed private day schools that use an intensive instructional model called applied behavior analysis to teach students.

PHOENIX and CHANDLER, Ariz. (Dec. 19, 2014) - Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) today announced the opening of the CARD Academy schools in Phoenix and Chandler, Ariz., private day schools for individuals with autism that use applied behavior analysis in the approach. The schools will open in Jan. 2015 and are for students with autism, developmental delay and speech-language impairment from ages five to 22. CARD Academy is a place where children and families can learn, play and thrive. The curriculum is based on the Department of Education standards and is enhanced by CARD's own assessment and curriculum called SKILLS®, a technology used by teachers and administrators to organize lesson plans, track progress, identify trends and allocate resources such as extra training. SKILLS® is aligned with the Common Core curriculum. Enrollment is available immediately for Jan. 2015 and space is limited. Empowerment scholarship account (ESA) funds will be accepted. To enroll or for any questions, contact Mary Ann Cassell at 571-290-0143 or email m.cassell@centerforautism.com.

"We are thrilled to open schools in Arizona that will offer students with autism an individualized education where they can grow and thrive," said CARD Academy senior managing supervisor, Mary Ann Cassell, MA, BCBA, LBA.

CARD Academy is designed after the CARD home-based therapy program for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and has developed an institution focused on teaching excellence. Students receive a personalized curriculum based on their performance on several assessments. Once the assessment process is completed, teachers and administrators work to create a dynamic Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Student/teacher ratios range from 1:1 to 4:1 based upon need.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), estimates that one in every 68 children in America is diagnosed with ASD, with one in 42 boys and one in 189 girls diagnosed. This is more than a 30 percent increase since the 2008 report. As the prevalence of ASD has increased, services for children with ASD have not always kept pace with demand. As a result, families affected by ASD may encounter challenges when trying to access the services that are crucial to their child's development, such as an individualized education in the classroom.

About Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)

CARD treats individuals of all ages who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at its 29 treatment centers around the globe. CARD was founded in 1990 by leading autism expert and clinical psychologist Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D. CARD treats individuals with ASD using the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), which is empirically proven to be the most effective method for treating individuals with ASD and recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General. CARD employs a dedicated team of nearly 2,000 individuals across the nation and internationally. For more information, visit www.centerforautism.com or call (855) 345-2273.

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