



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dec. 26, 2014**

Media Contact

Stacey Price

Phone: 310.740.5146

Email: [s.price@centerforautism.com](mailto:s.price@centerforautism.com)

**Center for Autism and Related Disorders Offers Winter Break Programs for Children with Autism**

*The programs are designed to enrich children's applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy during the holiday season.*

LOS ANGELES (Dec. 26, 2014) - Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) today announced it will be offering winter break programs for children with autism during the holiday break. All programs will be guided by a CARD trained therapist who will modify curriculum to meet the needs of each individual. Programs offered include Group ABA – CARD Safari, Parents Night Out/Shopping Day and Center-Based Play Groups. The programs will be available at all CARD office locations in the United States and space is limited. For more information and to determine if your funding covers these programs, please call 855.345.2273.

“The break from routine during the holidays can be a stressful time for many children with autism and their families,” said CARD director of operations, Sarah Cho, LCSW, BCBA. “We are excited to offer programs that will help children continue to learn during the winter break.”

Group ABA - CARD Safari offers groups of four to five children the opportunity to practice important social, language, play and executive functioning skills in an organized group setting consisting of activities such as games, motor movement, sports, social skills instruction and arts and crafts. Group ABA – CARD Safari helps children maintain and generalize previously learned skills, practice language skills with peers, build confidence with group activities, encourage socialization and cooperation and reduce and replace inappropriate social behaviors. Parents Night Out/Shopping Day gives parents a few hours to themselves while their child is at the office taking part in fun activities with their peers. This allows flexibility for parents to attend meetings or run errands while their child gets one-to-one support and opportunities for socialization. Center-Based Play Groups will provide children with the tools needed to acquire a variety of social skills along with a group of their peers. They are ABA therapy sessions that take place at the CARD office with a theme. This helps children with responding to social cues,

maintaining conversations, engaging in relationship appropriate behavior, turn taking and managing conflict.

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.

**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](http://www.centerforautism.com) or call (855) 345-2273.

###