

## **Center for Autism and Related Disorders Partners with Gymfinity for Sensory Friendly Night**

*CARD and Gymfinity will provide an evening for families of children with autism spectrum disorder to have fun and explore in a controlled environment.*

MADISON, WI (August 26, 2016) – Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) today announced Sensory Friendly Night, a collaboration with Gymfinity to provide children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) the opportunity to exercise and explore in a controlled environment. Parents of children both with and without ASD are encouraged to bring their families to experience a unique evening filled with fun for all. The event will take place on Saturday, August 27, at Gymfinity. The event is scheduled for August 27 from 5:30-7:00pm. Gymfinity is located at 6300 Nesbitt Road, Fitchburg, WI 53719.

Sensory Friendly Night will include special accommodations, such as altered lighting, sound modifications and sound reducing headphones, sensory activities, visual timers, directive signs and maps, and a “cool-down” area. CARD representatives will also be on hand, staffing an informational booth.

“We have had a program for kids with special needs since we opened in 1999,” said Jason Orkowski, owner of Gymfinity. “I saw an opportunity to work with CARD, a group that could not only supply my staff with great training but also provide a resource for our parents, and I wanted to have them involved. We have wanted to have an event like this for a long time, and we look forward to having our kids come in and play, in a new way, at the gym they call home for classes.”

“CARD is excited to partner with Gymfinity to create a fun and safe event. This is a great opportunity for families to come out to a place they may have hesitated to visit because of the challenges they experience when going out in the community,” said Jennifer Leanna, B.S., BCaBA, Associate Supervisor at CARD. “When CARD becomes part of a new community, we try to evaluate where the struggles are in the community and try to eliminate them the best we can. The ability to go out in the community as a family is one of the struggles identified by our families, and this is just one attempt to address that.”

### **About Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)**

CARD treats individuals of all ages who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at 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.

### **About Gymfinity**

Gymfinity, founded in 1999, is Dane County's most modern, safe, and fun place for kids to find fitness, gymnastics, and trampoline. Its experienced and safety certified instructors offer progressive programs to children newly-walking to 18 years old. Participation in sports like gymnastics promote strength, flexibility, coordination, agility, poise, and self confidence. Gymfinity's program allows each child to have fun and make new friends while attaining a higher

standard in motor skill development. This establishes a solid base upon which success in any sport can be built.

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