

Autism Awareness

What can you do?

Step 1: Learn the signs

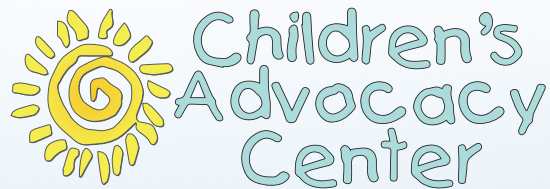
Step 2: Screen your child

Step 3: Access services

Points to Remember

Seeking the advice of a counselor can assist you with caring for your children. It can also empower you to strengthen your family connection.

For counseling referrals please call the Children's Advocacy Center at (813) 272-5437.



Administrative Office of the Courts
13th Judicial Circuit

For More Information or To Make a Referral:

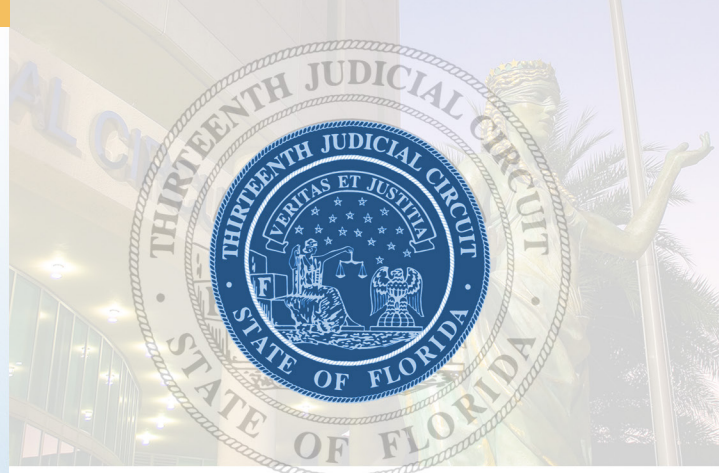
Contact the Children's Advocacy Center by calling:
(813) 272-KIDS/5437

To report Abuse please dial:
1-800-962-2873 or 1-800-96-ABUSE

Visit our website at:
www.fljud13.org

Our Office is Located at:

Mary Lee's House
2806 N. Armenia Avenue, Suite 500
Tampa, Florida 33607



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Children's Advocacy Center



What is Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder?

www.fljud13.org

Autism or autism spectrum disorder is characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, as well as by unique strengths and differences.

There are many different types of autism caused by a combination of genetic and environmental influences.

Autism Speaks has identified the following red flags that may indicate if your child is at risk for an autism spectrum disorder.

- Lack of smiles or expressions by 6 months
- No back and forth sharing of sounds or facial expressions by 9 months
- No babbling, no back-and-forth gestures (pointing, reaching, showing) by 12 months
- No words by 16 months
- No meaningful, two-word phrases (not including repeating or imitating) by 24 months
- Any loss of speech, babbling or social skills at any age

If your child exhibits any of the following signs please contact your child's pediatrician for an evaluation.

Helping Children Learn About Autism

Helping your child to understand how autism spectrum disorder impacts their life can help create a more inclusive and compassionate environment.

Teachable Tips for Children

- Some things may be hard for me to do, but I can do lots of things if I learn how
- Breaking down hard things into steps helps me learn and be most successful
- Routines can help me be ready for change and know what to expect
- Learning what to say and what not to say can help develop better social skills
- Learning to be patient with myself and others can help me build friendships



The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities provides support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism and related disabilities.

- CARD is a free community based program funded by Florida Department of Education.
- Card provides services to children and adults
- Documentation of a qualifying diagnosis is required to receive services
- or questions and appointments contact CARD USF at (813) 974-2532 or Toll-Free Florida Only at 1-800-333-3899

Autism Response Team:

1-888-288-4762

Specially trained to connect you to tools and resources