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*Serving the South Florida Autism Community
from early childhood through adulthood for 20 years.*

ABOUT THE CARRIE BRAZER CENTER FOR AUTISM

Carrie Brazer, founder and owner of the Carrie Brazer Center for Autism, is a Miami Native who went to Killian High School and graduated from Florida International University with a Master's degree in Special Education. Her greatest accomplishment and honor is being a mom to her two boys, Max and Jacob, ages 16 and 7. Her life's mission is to teach other moms and dads how to parent democratically, giving their child a say in all decisions which fosters independence and cooperation. She prides herself on her parenting style called "Positive Discipline" and offers her training classes to all parents in the community.

She transformed her school after becoming a certified Positive Discipline Educator to integrate the Positive Discipline approach in the daily lives of all her students. Teachers speak kindly but firmly to the children, always offering them choices. They encourage them with a loving and nurturing tones, never yelling and never using time out. They refrain from all punishments and don't need to use rewards to bribe the children. Instead, the children look forward to contributing and are intrinsically motivated. The entire staff is like family, and this approach has helped reduce turnover to almost null. The school family is unique and like no other specialized school for children with ADD and Autism. The children and staff cannot wait to come to school each day. Their smiling faces show it all.

Carrie looks forward to giving you a tour of her school and is always hands on. Please call today to make an appointment today at 305-271-8790.



MISSION

The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism seeks to build relationships and create a school climate for successful student learning. We endeavor to establish strong meaning and connection for students, families and staff in social and academic contexts by implementing principles of mutual respect and encouragement.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Carrie Brazer Center for Autism is to design an individual program to meet the specific educational, developmental and emotional needs of each and every child and family.

We strive to strengthen, educate and empower families who have children with autism and other developmental delays by practicing the principles of Positive Discipline as developed by Jane Nelson, Ed.D., and Lynn Lott, M.F.C.C.

Five Criteria for Positive Discipline:

1. **Helps children feel a sense of connections.** (Belonging and Significance)
2. **Is mutually respectful and encouraging.** (Firm and kind at the same time.)
3. **Is effective long-term.** (Considers what the child is thinking, feeling, learning and deciding about himself and his world - and what to do in the future to survive or to thrive.)
4. **Teaches important social and life skills.** (Respect, concern for others, problem solving, and cooperation as well as the skills to contribute to the home, school or larger community.)
5. **Invites children to discover how capable they are.** (Encourages the constructive use of personal power and autonomy.)

WHAT WE ARE

The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism is a proud "Positive Discipline School" and one of the only in Florida for students on the Autism Spectrum. The Positive Discipline approach teaches children, teachers, staff and parents to be encouraging to each other and to themselves. It is a whole school model designed to teach everyone in the school to have a role that creates a sense of belonging and significance. Every relationship is nurturing and deeply respectful. The environment is inviting and teaches everyone to be responsible, respectful and resourceful members of their school family.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism specializes in serving students diagnosed with classical Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other social and communicative disabilities, including Asperger's Disorder, high functioning autism, and nonverbal learning disabilities. Our program consists of highly structured, consistent, cognitive and community based instruction based solely on the principles of positive reinforcement through the school and camp curriculum. The Center strives to meet each child's educational and behavioral goals. Individual programs are designed to meet the specific educational, developmental and emotional needs of each child and family. We provide a 1:1 teacher/student ratio for those who need it.

With a multidisciplinary team of professionals including Behavioral therapists, music instructors and special education teachers, The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism provides a wide range of learning opportunities that foster growth in all essential areas. This integrated educational and therapeutic program promotes communicative, behavioral, academic, motor, adaptive, independent living skills and social and emotional development.

We are thrilled to offer unique programming by collaborating with several community partners. We provide our children access to many of the wonderful facilities that South Florida has to offer where they are able to participate with typical functioning children. With our incredible team of teachers and therapists, we are able to offer individual assistance and small group instruction for these activities.

The Carrie Brazer Center has always been known for integrating outside experiences into the teaching curriculum. We make community based outings an integral part of our learning program. Children learn to generalize the skills they are taught in the classrooms out in the community. These skills include exchanging money, identifying objects, walking in lines, changing clothes independently, eating new food, listening and paying attention to shows and much more. By providing regular trips to the Zoo, local museums, beautiful South Florida beaches and parks, our special children become familiar with the community in which they live. Providing the children with practice visiting local area attractions enables parents and grandparents the ability to take their children out on their own successfully on the weekends.

Because our class ratios are small, individual attention is given throughout the day for all children.

The Carrie Brazer Center for autism is dedicated to providing an environment full of love and patience for ASD individuals. Our greatest reward is the progress of our students and the knowledge that we are making a positive impact on our families and the communities we serve.



THE POWER OF POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

The Carrie Brazer Center of Autism is a proud "Positive Discipline School" and one of the only in Florida for students on the Autism Spectrum. The Positive Discipline approach teaches children, teachers, staff and parents to be encouraging to each other and to themselves. It is a whole school model designed to teach everyone in the school to have a role that creates a sense of belonging and significance. Every relationship is nurturing and deeply respectful. The environment is inviting and teaches everyone to be responsible, respectful and resourceful members of their school family.



Imagine a school

- ♥ Where children can't wait to come each day.
- ♥ Where teachers and children give hugs every day.
- ♥ Where parents feel safe dropping their children off because they know their child will be respected and loved the entire day long.
- ♥ Where the entire staff is happy and loves their job and you see it on their faces every day.
- ♥ Where the students feel comfortable to make mistakes and to blossom and grow into independent and happy individuals.
- ♥ Where the parents feel like a part of an extended family and have the desire to learn the skills they need to become effective parents.
- ♥ Where the children respect each other, speak kind words and demonstrate empathy through acts of kindness, especially to those less fortunate than they are.
- ♥ Where students are engaged and parents are contributing to the classroom, to the school and to the larger community.

The Positive Discipline model was created by Dr. Jane Nelsen and Lynn Lott and derived from the works of psychologists Alfred Adler and Rudolph Dreikurs. Positive Discipline is based on mutually respectful relationships at home, at school and in the community. Positive Discipline teaches parents, educators, students and community members the skills necessary to create healthy interpersonal connections in an environment where each contribution has meaning, is valued, and expected.

CURRICULUM



BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

**Intensive Early Intervention
Program for children
ages 2-5**

Early Intervention for autism is not a "one size fits all" approach. The Carrie

Brazer Center for Autism

Building Foundations program incorporates multiple ABA techniques, Music, Sensory Integration and Speech therapy into a comprehensive individualized and intensive early intervention program. We address the full range of life skills, from communication and sociability, self-care and readiness for school.

Our Early Intensive intervention program offers a variety of techniques through structured play and socialization each day from 8:45 - 12:45 pm.

The Carrie Brazer Center For Autism is one of the few centers specializing in serving children with Autism using the techniques of Positive Discipline. We ensure that the message of love and respect gets through to our children every day.

We Have fun! We bring joy into our classrooms and our teachers and staff love what we do!

Each intensive session is limited to 5 students. The class follows a daily schedule which includes:



Pragmatics Social Group
Oral Motor Language
Independent Feeding Skills
Social Skills & Gross Motor Play
Sensory Integration & Fine Motor Skills
Music & more

**Florida Gardiner Scholarship Funding
is available for students 3-5 years old.**

We offer 5 Building Foundations Sessions throughout the calendar year.

BUILDING FUNDAMENTALS: FULL DAY SCHOOL

We offer a unique, individualized education with an emphasis on social skills in a nurturing, therapeutic environment with a full comprehensive team approach!

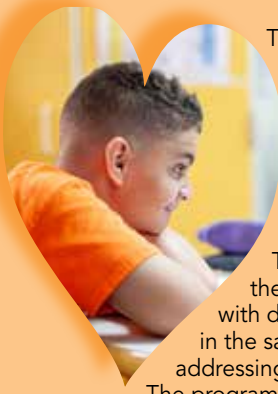
The curriculum is highly individualized, hands on, and designed to address the specific needs of each student. The program is based on the current research and best practices in the field. Teaching strategies and reinforcement methodologies are reviewed on an ongoing basis to maximize each student's success.

Our classrooms have small group ratios and are staffed by special education teachers with vast experience in integrating various therapeutic programs for children with ASD and other developmental delays. These small class sizes enable us to provide individualized instruction and meet each child's individual goals. Students who require a smaller teacher student ratio, may opt for three to seven hours of

additional one to one therapy per day or opt for a 1:1 shadow throughout the school day.

Our program is based on a traditional ABA method (Applied Behavior Analysis), integrated with the principles of Positive Discipline. We incorporate various practices and have adapted many approaches to teaching including the following: The Pyramid Approach to learning, whereby reinforcement plays a key role in motivating the child to learn; The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) or an augmentative communication device (AAC), such as the iPad, to increase expressive communication for those who need it; Dr. Stanley Greenspan's well known "Floor time Approach" to enhance play and interaction.





The educators at Carrie Brazer Center for Autism use the **Unique Learning System** program as an integral part of the school day. This one-of-a-kind online program is designed to give students with complex learning needs meaningful access to the general educational curriculum.

The Unique Learning program allows the educator to include all students with different levels of ability and need in the same lesson, while at the same time addressing extended standards for 3 grade levels.

The program supports the needs of every learner

with evidence-based teaching strategies, skills tracking, and alignment documents that match lessons to targeted standards.

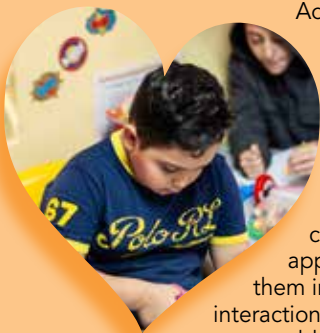
With a goal of preparing every student for independence and success in life beyond the classroom, the **Carrie Brazer Center for Autism** and the **Unique Learning System** integrate transition learning skills throughout the grade levels, beginning at preschool.

At the post-high school level, a dedicated transition program provides students with a realistic setting for engaging the skills necessary to develop expectations for their futures.



Additionally music instruction plays a key role in our program to promote and enhance expressive language through song, while teaching children to make requests, follow directions, share, and take turns and increase joint attention skills.

Students with limited functional communication skills learn to use iPad applications which are designed to help them initiate communicative exchanges and interactions within a social context. Easy touch screens enable the child with limited fine motors skills to easily access the pictures.



Building Futures: Adult Day training Life Skills and Vocational Training for Adults



The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism is filling the gap for much needed programming developed specifically for those adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD's), who have graduated from high school, yet, still require additional guidance and training to enable them to transition to more independent living.

Our program is based on a traditional ABA method (Applied Behavior Analysis), yet we integrate various practices and have adapted many approaches to teaching including the following: The Pyramid Approach to learning, whereby reinforcement plays a key role in motivating the child to learn; The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) or an augmentative communication device (AAC), such as the iPad, to increase expressive communication for those who need it; Dr. Stanley Greenspan's well known "Floor time Approach" to enhance play and interaction, and the principles of Positive Discipline.

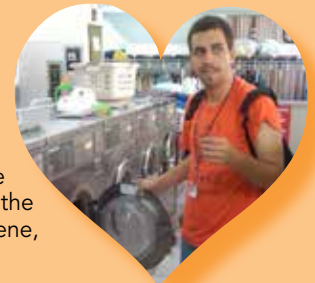
A primary component of the vocational program involves taking students on community activities to gain experience and to increase their socialization skills and to generalize skills learned in the classroom.

Horseback riding & swimming are an integral part of the physical education activities

Daily living skills such as self-care, housing, dining out, and cooking, vocational skills and money management, play an integral part of our weekly curriculum.

Money management skills will be practiced weekly out in the community, at the laundry mat, and on various community-based field trips and while utilizing public transportation.

Students will also learn to manage a household, become involved in the community, maintain proper hygiene, and prepare simple meals.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WELCOME!

This school is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.

The Carrie Brazer for Autism participates in the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) under the Department of Homeland Security. We are a SEVP approved school and are authorized to accept F-1 nonimmigrant students to our program.

SUPER SATURDAYS SUPER HOLIDAYS

All year our program continues to offer unique opportunities for children on the Autism Spectrum. Our Camp Days are a real vacation from the day to day routine of traditional schoolwork, but we never stop teaching! The principals of Applied Behavior Analysis are still incorporated in our day to day instruction and we incorporate an intensive communication and literacy program into all of our camp day activities.

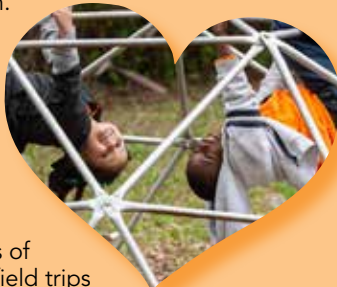
One of the most under utilized, yet effective treatment for autistic children is exercise! Several research studies have shown

that vigorous or strenuous exercise is often associated with decreases in stereotypical behaviors, hyperactivity, aggression, self injury, and destructiveness. Free play on the playground and organized basketball and field games are also part of the after school program with emphasis on individual teaching, building gross motor skills, increasing time on task, focus and cooperation and following directions in a group.

On Saturday mornings and our Camp Days on holidays and teacher workdays throughout the school year we provide three hours of intensive, hands on, educational training, behavior modification and cognitive sensory based activities from 9am-12pm.

The afternoon consists of community based instruction which includes activities designed to increase fine and gross motor skills, as well as language and muscular development.

Our **"Super Saturday"** and our **"Camp Day"** programs consists of wonderfully planned, fun filled field trips from 12pm-4pm such as horseback riding, ice skating, and bowling, swimming in the ocean, and much, much more!!! This much needed program gives children a head start for the school, as they make **"Leaps & Bounds"** on Saturdays building their confidence and self esteem while socializing, interacting, and just having fun!



SUMMER CAMP, WINTER CAMP, SPRING CAMP

The Carrie Brazer Center offers a unique camp program for children with autism and other developmental delays.

The program, "Camping by the Sea," is held at local aquatic venues such as the Matheson Hammocks Nature Center in Coral Gables or the Biscayne Nature Center on beautiful Crandon Beach in Key Biscayne. Our specialized curriculum incorporates literacy skills, music and art therapy, physical fitness and an appreciation and understanding of Florida's natural environment, for a science-based marine biology learning experience. Our program incorporated Crandon Beach Adventures and the Matheson Hammocks Nature Center's environmental educational tours. The Carrie Brazer Center specializes in teaching children with autism in a structured and positive environment.

Based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, our highly trained and qualified staff work closely together

collaborating their efforts. Our team includes special education teachers, and behavior technicians. We keep our teacher to student ratio small, enabling us to give each child the individual attention that he or she needs. Parents can also opt for 3:1 or 1:1 instruction for an additional fee.

Our staff will work together to develop individual academic goals and behavioral goals and objectives for each child. Our program enriches the lives of

autistic children by introducing a significant reading/literacy component based on nature, with hands-on demonstrations and explorations. These activities include, but are not limited to sensory enrichment in the aquarium touch and feel tanks, walking on nature hikes, and exploring the ocean.





Another unique asset of our program is our comprehensive physical education program in which children will be engaged in organized sports and games led by an adaptive physical education teacher.

We also provide daily opportunities for free play on the playground and beaches and swimming in beautiful Crandon Park Beach's ocean or the man-made atoll pool, which is flushed naturally with the tidal action of nearby Biscayne Bay at Matheson Hammocks Park. Additionally, we participate in weekly community-based outings to various places in the local area such as the Miami Seaquarium, Sailing with Shake-a-Leg of Miami, Super Wheels Skating Center, Miami Children's Museum, Zoo Miami and much, much more. Children will become familiar with their own community, as well as learn to transfer social and cognitive skills taught in the classroom to the environment in which they live.

Autistic children benefit from a constant routine. Our schedule is structured very carefully to meet the needs of our special children. Camp Days on Mondays and Wednesdays are held at water-based aquatic centers. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we have activities at the center which include water slides and bounce houses, sports activities, arts & crafts, communication skills and social skills games. Our campers practice the skills they learn in the classroom setting such as counting, using money, reading street signs, using pictures to make requests and exhibiting appropriate behavior and generalize them in the community.

We have certified ABA therapists available to provide therapy for our campers throughout the day.

"Camping by the Sea" is designed to ensure that each of our special children have the "Vacation of their Lives!"



**We accept Private Insurance
for Behavior Health (ABA) Therapy.
Call us at (305) 271-8790 or (305) 234-0490
to find out how you can enroll in
our School and
Summer ABA Camp Programs.**

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION COGNITIVE & EDUCATIONAL THERAPY

Behavior Modification is an integral part of healing the child with autism. The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism offers your child a special opportunity to receive 1:1 ABA therapy in a loving and nurturing environment. Our staff incorporates the principles of Positive Discipline throughout each day as well as the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. The curriculum is highly individualized, hands on, and designed to address the specific needs of each client.



The school day integrates the behavioral and academic goals or each student in a 1:1 ratio in a classroom setting within a small group incorporating traditional classroom learning and socialization with 1:1 ABA therapy. We will follow through with your child's IEP and Behavioral Plan objectives from school throughout the school year so that each child can continue to make academic and social gains.

Students will work closely with our RBT's and Behavioral Assistants. We also have the option of therapy with a BCaBA or BCBA. Our services include full ABA therapy evaluations and academic assessments. We accept many private insurance plans for Behavioral Health (ABA) Therapy.

Our highly trained teachers and therapists provide intensive instruction using the methods of applied Behavior Analysis. Applied in a comprehensive, intensive and sustained way, we carefully plan learning opportunities for children and reinforce desired behaviors at a high rate. Each behavioral intervention is highly individualized and tailored to each child's current levels of functioning and projected future. Because parental involvement is a crucial component of effective behavioral changes, we provide opportunities for parents to learn and practice ABA interventions during therapy. Early behavioral intervention greatly improves language, social skills, play, self help and problematic behavior such as tantrums, stereotypic and ritualistic responding, withdrawal, self injury and aggression. Successful integration in regular schools is another positive effect that is well supported by data.



MUSIC THERAPY



Many studies have shown that music instruction can be beneficial to children and that music actually increases their intellectual and creative development. Through structured, goal oriented music therapy experiences, children often improve receptive and expressive language skills. They develop social skills, learn self help skills, and refine their sensory and motor skills. Non communicative children are often able to become actively engaged in music

experiences and can practice building relationships with others through musical interactions. During music, children are engaged in activities that are designed to promote social and emotional learning. Music therapy groups are especially effective in providing practice of learning skills necessary for effective learning in typical classroom settings including following directions, making requests, turn taking, sharing and joint attention skills. Our program is especially designed to offer the widest possible range of sound and rhythmic experiences for children. Children are encouraged to sing along and play instruments, whistle, clap, stomp, chant and dance to favorite songs!



We also offer Music Therapy Groups! Your child can participate in fun and educational group sessions designed to practice building relationships with others during musical interactions. These groups provide practice of learning skills necessary for effective learning in typical classroom settings. These 45 minute sessions are held on Saturdays.



Please call (305) 271-8790 to schedule your private or group music lessons.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Horseback riding is a hands-on education program that uses the interactions and relationships between horses and humans in an environment of learning and self-discovery. It is designed to promote personal growth and the development of positive social/life skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Through a curriculum of activities designed to address individual goals and needs, each equine interaction is framed to help participants learn and grow. The barn/farm environment naturally lends itself as a unique multi-sensory classroom.

The students participate weekly at the barn learning how to groom, feed, bathe, saddle and tack the horses. Each student will ride once per week for 30 minutes. During the unmounted time they will be learning horsemanship, identifying parts of the horse, taking part in fun outdoor scavenger hunts, playing in the water to cool off and participating in great activities around horses to get comfortable and familiar with all the great attributes of horses. Our older students will perform jobs such as separating grain and hay, shoveling shavings for the stalls, and more.

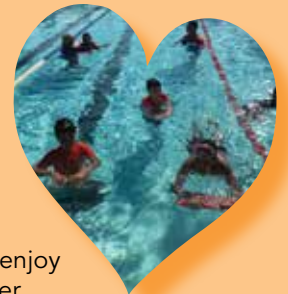


SWIMMING CLASSES

The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism offers swimming classes as part of our physical education program. Our students are given swimming lessons at the Dave and Mary Alper JCC in Kendall. Our staff assists the instructors with our children in the pool.

The children learn to swim and enjoy some free time in the open water awakening all of their senses.

Water safety is especially important for children with emotional, behavioral, and communication disorders. All children need to learn to swim. In the situation of a child who is less aware of his surrounding and challenged with communication, it is even more crucial. Swimming is beneficial to the physical and mental health of children on the autism spectrum.





LOVE
Grows
HERE