

Carrie Brazer Center schedules Autism Awareness Month event



Pictured are teacher aide Dunia Wilson Silva and student Kevin Bernal.

BY ROBERT HAMILTON

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month in April, the Carrie Brazer Center for Autism is sponsoring an open house on Apr. 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Kendall Campus, 8790 SW 94 St. (behind Baptist Hospital).

Parents are invited to tour the facility, meet the staff and learn more about the center. The celebration includes activities for children.

The Kendall Campus operates a full day school for children ages 3 to 12. The programs include:

The Early Steps: Designed for early intervention for children from birth to 5 years old. The unique speech- and language-based programs completely center on each child's individual goals — both cognitively and behaviorally. Children experience one to four hours of intensive, hands on, educational training, behavior modification and cognitive sensory-based activities.

The Leaps & Bounds: Designed for early intervention for children ages 3-6 years. Emphasis placed on communication, social skills training through music therapy, speech and sensory integration therapy in a classroom setting. Certified elementary teacher, behavior, speech, occupational and music therapists collaborate to design a specific program for each

child for the school year. Options include 1-4 hours of intensive speech- and language-based ABA therapy.

The Elementary School: Serves children from 5 to 12 years. Each class is led by a Special Education teacher with 1-2 trained teacher aides per class. A 5 or 6 to 1 student to teacher ratio is maintained, 1-to-1 ratio is available. The school day includes Cognitive & ABA Therapy, Speech/OT/PT Therapy. Field trips to community attractions such as bowling, horseback riding, zoo, swimming, museums, etc. are planned bi-weekly to develop social interaction skills.

The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism has a second location for its middle school, high school and adult vocational programs. This center is located at 7425 SW 42 St.

Both locations accept Florida McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities for full payment based on a sliding scale if the child's Matrix is 254 or 255. Parents may begin filing intent for the 2010-11 school year. The intent deadline is July 3 for Aug. 2 enrollment. The McKay website is <www.floridaschoolchoice.org>.

The center is accepting applications for the 2010-11 school year at both locations and for Summer Camp, beginning June 7. Call the Carrie Brazer Center for Autism at 305-271-8790 to learn more about the Open House and the school. The website is <www.cbc4autism.org>.