

# NEIGHBORS

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## SCHOOL SCENE

### **CARRIE BRAZER CENTER FOR AUTISM**

On Oct. 29, the American Academy of Pediatrics released their recommendation to pediatricians to screen all children for autism spectrum disorders at 18 and 24 months. The AAP maintains that the earlier a diagnosis is made, the sooner interventions can take place to improve the lives of the children and their families.

In light of this news, the Carrie Brazer Center for Autism and Alternative Approaches, Inc., 7425 SW 42nd St., is making their presence known in the community by informing residents of their year-round education, therapy and care for autistic children ages 18 months and up.

The center has been helping children with autism and other developmental delays and their families since 1999. Many of their programs and therapies are available free thanks to the Florida McKay

Scholarship Program for Children with Disabilities, a grant from The Children's Trust.

The center operates a full day school and provides after-school care and Saturday programs for autistic children in the community.

New to the center this year is instruction for children on the Chat-PC, a palm-top computer intended for individuals who primarily use symbols for communication. This model has all the features necessary to use and create vocabulary sets using symbols and photographs.

The device also allows for spelling of words and phrases and provides synthesized speech with a choice of over five different male/female voices to choose from. The device allows a child with autism void of speech an opportunity to communicate with others that may not know him or sign language.

For more information, call 305-262-5999.