



PANTHER NEWS



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

PAULO GRAZIANO, PH.D.

Dear Families,

I want to commend all of the parents, grandparents and guardians who have been staying home with their children during these difficult times. We know you are devoting your time and effort to invest in their future success. Despite the circumstances, we will be trying to provide as many virtual services and resources as possible to you this summer.

We also can't forget to thank the incredible teachers and schools that have taken the time to accommodate and adapt in order to help your children continue learning. Working with and getting to know you all has been a true blessing and joy! We hope to get back to "normal" soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- In light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we will not be hosting any in-person services, including all summer camps.
- However, we will be providing FREE online parenting resources for new and returning families (See page 2 for more details).
- We will be contacting families to complete follow up visits this summer and fall.

"We are here to help you and your family learn and grow during these difficult times."

-AHEAD Staff



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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SUMMER SERVICES



NEW FAMILIES: FREE SCHOOL READINESS PARENTING PROGRAM

RETURNING FAMILIES: FREE PARENT CONSULTATIONS

- **WHAT?** You will learn play-therapy tools and discipline techniques through Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, as well as tips on how to improve your child's school readiness and social-emotional skills.
- **WHEN?** To be scheduled with your individual therapist.
- **HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?** For children in pre-k going into kindergarten next year who are experiencing behavior difficulties. Families must have completed the in person or over the phone intake visit with one of our staff members, as well as complete the online enrollment packet. If you have any questions about your status, please email us at selfreg@fiu.edu
- **WHAT?** Email questions to selfreg@fiu.edu ahead of time as well as bring any questions live to our "Zoom table." Questions may include any child related topics including parenting tips, interventions, child development issues, physical health/nutrition/picky eating, and more!.
- **WHEN?** Every Monday night from 4:30pm-6:30pm hosted by Dr. Graziano from June 15th to August 3rd.
- **HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?** You must complete any pending follow up visits and/or online questionnaires in order to participate. We will only be sending the reoccurring Zoom link to these families. If you have any questions about your status, please email us at selfreg@fiu.edu



RESEARCH NEWS

- This month, our team was rewarded a 50K grant from the Center for Research on US Latino HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse (CRUSADA) Supplemental Pilot Studies Program to examine the role of the COVID-19 crisis on family health behaviors.
- Learn more about our most recent published articles below:

CONDENSING PARENT TRAINING: EFFICACY OF INTENSIVE PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION THERAPY (I-PCIT)

By Dr. Paulo Graziano

- This study compared traditional PCIT to a condensed intension version of PCIT (I-PCIT).
- Traditional PCIT occurs once a week for 10 weeks and I-PCIT occurs every weekday for 2 weeks.
- 60 families of children ages 2 to 7 who were having behavioral difficulties received either traditional PCIT or I-PCIT
- Comparable improvements were seen in both groups (parenting skills, discipline practices and child externalizing problems).
- Parents experiencing high levels of stress benefited more from I-PCIT in terms of decreasing child externalizing behaviors.
- I-PCIT appears to be a viable treatment option for families, especially those experiencing high levels of stress, in terms of targeting early externalizing behavior problems within a short period of time.

STP-PREK FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD): FEASIBILITY AND INITIAL EFFICACY

By Dr. Rosmary Ros-Demarize

- The current study examined the feasibility and initial efficacy of the Summer Treatment Program for Pre-kindergarteners (STP-PreK) with 37 preschoolers with high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and externalizing behavior problems (EBP).
- Children with ASD experience heightened levels of externalizing behavior problems (EBP), with 60% meeting diagnostic criteria for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Improvements were reported in parent-rated hyperactivity, inattention, aggression, and social and adaptive skills.
- Children also improved performance across academic achievement, emotion knowledge, and executive functioning.