



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Center for Autism and Related Disorders Extends Skills 4 America™ Worldwide to Meet Critical Developmental Disability Needs**

*The Center for Autism and Related Disorders has announced it will now offer its charitable initiative to schools across the world, and provide free web-based tools to treat, track and help recover children from autism.*

**WORLDWIDE (Apr. 11, 2011) - The Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD) today announced the extension of the Skills 4 America™ grant program to administrators worldwide in order to make universal access to effective autism treatment a reality. Skills 4 America began as a nationwide grant program to provide one-year scholarships for Skills, a breakthrough web-based program for assessing and designing treatment curricula for students with autism and other developmental disorders. CARD expects to award the Skills 4 America grant to every applicant who meets the minimum criteria.**

**To be eligible, schools:**

- **Must provide evidence of need**
- **Must be K-12**
- **Must be proficient in oral and written English**
- **Must complete a free, 30-minute Skills webinar**

**Administrators can apply for the 2011 Skills 4 America grant by first registering online at [www.skills4america.com](http://www.skills4america.com) to attend a free, 30-minute Skills webinar. The webinar will be held on April 21 at 3:30 pm (EST). Following the webinar, attendees will receive a code and link to apply for the Skills 4 America grant.**

**“There are many schools around the world that have reached a critical point in addressing developmental disability needs,” says Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D, founder and executive director of CARD and co-creator of Skills. “We are confident this grant program will not only address this concern, but also enhance our long-standing efforts to encourage and support educators and fellow practitioners who are working to help children with autism and related disorders reach their full potential.”**

**Dr Granpeesheh adds, “My initial intent in developing Skills was to empower both parents and educators. I wanted to provide the highest quality training, the most accurate assessment, and the most comprehensive curriculum for students with autism. Skills 4 America goes one step further by placing autism before profits. We believe that the future of a child with autism should not be dictated by whether or not their parents can afford the necessary tools the child needs to reach their full potential.”**

**Skills features:**

- **BCBA mentorship from BCBA clinical support staff (additional fees apply)**
- **Access to the most comprehensive assessment and curriculum in the world for students with autism**
- **Extras such as lesson plans, teaching guides, visual aids, worksheets, tracking forms, IEP goals and benchmarks, and access to online support**
- **The ability for teachers to track skill acquisition, at the operant and activity level, as well as the effects of challenging behavior and alternative treatments on each student's progress**
- **Tracking of known and newly mastered skills, as well as progress-tracking charts**

The Skills 4 America grant is administered through Autism Care and Treatment (ACT) Today!, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, whose mission is to raise awareness as well as provide treatment services and support to help children with autism achieve their full potential. For more information about ACT Today!, visit [www.act-today.org](http://www.act-today.org).

"Autism is an urgent matter not only in the US, but around the world, and it requires our attention," says Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson, executive director of ACT Today!. "We can do something about it. We are proud to offer Skills 4 America in partnership with the world's largest organization that is effectively treating children with autism."

**About Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD)**

CARD treats individuals of all ages who are diagnosed with ASD, with 23 treatment centers around the globe and a staff of nearly 1,000. CARD was founded in 1990 by leading autism expert and clinical psychologist Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D. CARD treats individuals with ASD using the principles and procedures of ABA, which has been empirically proven to be the most effective method for treating individuals with ASD and is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General. For more information, visit [www.centerforautism.com](http://www.centerforautism.com) or call (855) 345-2273.

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