



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

LINDA RAY  
INTERVENTION CENTER



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 8

## ABOUT US

The UM-Linda Ray Intervention Center is a University-based Multidisciplinary Educational Services Center in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) and Florida's Early Steps program. We provide early intervention services, diagnostic evaluation, consultation, technical assistance, and pre-service and in-service training for families, teachers, school district personnel, and community support providers concerning children and youth with developmental delays or disabilities, complex medical, emotional, or behavioral problems.



## RESOURCES & SERVICES

- Training
- Direct intervention and consultation services
- Developmental screenings and assessments that help determine each child's needs
- Behavioral support strategies for school and home
- Classroom observations
- Transition planning support and linkages with Head Start, MDCPS, and Pre-K services
- Alternative options for your child's educational needs
- Evidence-based parenting program service

# Newsletter

MARCH 2024

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the University of Miami Linda Ray Intervention Center is to support and facilitate positive developmental outcomes with high-quality services, thereby improving young children's school readiness, and future student achievement.

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH & NEURODIVERSITY CELEBRATION WEEK

March marks a month that celebrates various occasions, including developmental disabilities and neurodiversity (March 18-24). Both aim to raise awareness, understanding, and acceptance. Let's come together and empower all individuals, especially those who are neurodivergent and/or have varying abilities.

People experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, and behaving.

### How to celebrate at home:

- Talk about differences at home and work to help it become part of everyday conversations.
- Use appropriate language that celebrates all individuals.
- Identify and talk about role models with varying abilities.
- Talk about different types of brains just as you would speak about different animals, plants, and people.
- Read books about brains:
  - *Some Brains* by Nelly Thomas, illustrated by Cat MacInnes
  - *The Brain Forest* by Sandhya Menon, Illustrated by Kushla Ross
  - *Neurodiversity! What's That?* by Nadine Ramina Arthur

## WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR DAY?

In honor of Mr. Rogers' birthday (March 20th), Won't You Be My Neighbor Day is a reminder to spread love and kindness. On *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* show, children and adults across the United States were taught the importance of imagination and creativity, loving yourself and your neighbor, and many other life skills.

Some of the messages that he shared were:

- **Feel good about who you are.** *"There is only one person in the world like you, and people can like you just because you're you."* - Mr. Rogers
- **All kinds of feelings are natural and normal.** He taught us that talking about feelings makes them more manageable.
- **Respect and appreciate others.** His door was open to all, and all kinds of people could share their talents and ideas. *"You are so special and so is everyone else in the world."* - Mr. Rogers
- **It's good to wonder and learn.** He encouraged us to look and listen carefully, to keep trying, and to see the world as a wondrous place.
- **Be ready for new experiences.** At times new experiences or changes in routine can be scary and overwhelming, especially for young children. It's important to discuss what's expected and reassure your child beforehand.
- **It's okay to talk about difficult subjects and sometimes there are things no one can understand.** Children also wonder and worry about situations, so speak with them openly and honestly.



## ENROLLMENT IS OPEN!

Enrollment for the current and upcoming 2024-2025 school year is open. If you or anyone you know are interested in enrolling their child, contact: (305)-325-1818 or visit [www.lindaraycenter.miami.edu](http://www.lindaraycenter.miami.edu)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 25-29: Spring Break**

March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- Teacher Workday
- Recess Day (Closed)
- Legal Holiday

## Location

750 NW 15TH ST  
MIAMI, FL 33136-1431

## Primary Service Areas

Miami-Dade County  
Broward County  
Monroe County



## Contact Us

Tel: (305) 325-1818  
Fax: (305) 325-1151  
Isabel Chica, M.S.  
Executive Director  
[ichica@miami.edu](mailto:ichica@miami.edu)