



Dear Parent:

Thank you for contacting me about **Relationship Development Intervention® (RDI)**, a parent-driven approach to promoting developmental progress. Enclosed is information for you to review. Feel free to contact me or my office manager if you would like more information or clarification. You may schedule an intake appointment to discuss your situation with me personally, to determine what services or next steps might be most appropriate for your circumstances.

RDI® (**Relationship Development Intervention®**) is a highly effective, parent-driven clinical treatment program that focuses on improving foundations for learning, such as motivation, flexible thinking, self-regulation, and quality of relating with others. This approach empowers parents to effectively guide their child to be more competent, and you can expect to see significant improvements in the quality of your child's functioning and interactions with you. Whether you are already committed to the RDI® Program for your family, or are just curious about RDI® and would like to learn more, please keep in mind that RDI® is a long-term lifestyle commitment rather than a short-term therapy approach. Before beginning a customized RDI® program and working with a RDI® Program Certified Consultant, please consider the following.

**Required prior to beginning with an RDI® Program Certified Consultant (completion of at least ONE of the following):**

1. Read *The RDI Book* by Dr. Steven Gutstein, PhD (available at [www.rdiconnect.com](http://www.rdiconnect.com)).
2. View the DVD entitled *Going to the Heart of Autism: the Relationship Development Intervention Program* (available at [www.rdiconnect.com](http://www.rdiconnect.com))
3. Complete all of the basic e-learning courses online through the RDI online learning system, available by subscription (ask me to email you an invitation to join).

Thank you for your interest in these services. Since I see individuals of all ages, across the lifespan, and all levels of functioning, I am truly concerned when any part of your child's complex brain development becomes stuck and growth is delayed. Fortunately, your child has you. My goal is to provide you with useful strategies, information, and support so that you may successfully guide your child past obstacles. I'd like to support you to impact such quality-of-life issues as future employability, safety, capacity for relationships, and emotional stability. I hope that we will have an opportunity to discuss your child, your specific concerns, and the resources and services that may be useful for you.

Sincerely,

Carrie Sheppard M.Ed., LMHC