

Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Who We Are

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute is a multifaceted, interdisciplinary program serving children, families and professionals in the autism community. The center combines clinical services, research and training programs to unlock the potential of autistic children and teens, enrich their life experiences, empower parents, and promote the well-being of families through evidence-based practices. One of our major endeavors is developing effective new models of care for families and providers—locally, nationally and internationally.

Our Team

Many dedicated professionals comprise our interdisciplinary clinical, research, and outreach and training programs, and include:

- Behavior specialists
- Biostatisticians
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists
- Clinical psychologists
- Clinical social workers
- Developmental behavioral pediatricians
- Developmental psychologists
- Epidemiologists
- Genetic counselors
- Geneticists
- Movement scientists
- Neurodevelopmental pediatricians
- Neurologists
- Neuropsychologists
- Neuroscientists
- Occupational therapists
- Pediatric neurologists
- Special educators
- Speech-language pathologists

Clinical Services

An accurate diagnosis is crucial to helping autistic children and teens, and their families, identify appropriate therapies. As leaders in diagnosing autism spectrum disorder (ASD), we provide our patients with the most up-to-date diagnostic information.

For each individual enrolled in our interventions, our team develops an individual treatment program that may include intervention to support behavior regulation, language and communication intervention, augmentative and alternative communication treatment, social skills intervention, occupational therapy, medical management, and family support services. Driven by ongoing research, our clinical programs offer children and teens the most innovative evidence-based therapies available.



Achievements Program

This program offers individualized treatment in small-group settings to children up to 5 years of age with a focus on communication and social interaction. Our comprehensive approach targets the most challenging areas for autistic children: communication and social, emotional and self-regulatory development. We use best-practice approaches, including naturalistic developmental behavior interventions, to make the classroom not only a place of learning, but also a place to form friendships and build self-confidence. We strongly encourage parent involvement through observation, training and team meetings. By encouraging and teaching children to apply their skills outside of clinical settings, we help children and their families prepare for the transition to school-age years.



Research and Education for All Children (REACH)

Our internationally recognized research program informs our clinical practice and training programs. Our team approach enables us to comprehensively and innovatively research the causes, detection and assessments of—and treatments for—developmental challenges experienced by children and teens with ASD and other social communication difficulties.

We are dedicated to translating research into treatments and educational practices. Funded by both federal and private sources, including the National Institutes of Health, the Institute of Education Sciences, the Department of Defense and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, much of our research is in collaboration with other national and international experts. Some of our research focuses on:

- Early detection of, and intervention for, ASD, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety, behavioral disorders and other developmental delays
- Early diagnostic criteria for ASD
- Early intervention for infants and toddlers at elevated likelihood for ASD
- Understanding and enhancing how children with ASD learn
- Effective methods for training caregivers, teachers and family members of children with ASD and other developmental differences
- Developing and evaluating effective measures of social communication and behavioral functioning from infancy through teen years
- Investigating sensory functioning in early childhood
- Improving the detection and treatment of acute mental health challenges among autistic children and teens
- The neurological basis of speech processing and sensory, motor and attention differences in children with ASD, other communication difficulties or neurotypical development, and how these factors affect social and communication development
- Environment-gene interactions in ASD

Outreach and Training

Through outreach and training, we provide responsive and targeted programming to professionals, family members and community partners to increase their capacity to support and empower children and teens with ASD and other communication challenges. Our outreach and training efforts include:

- Evidence-based training sessions and workshops that provide continuing education for practitioners from a wide variety of disciplines
- Fidelity and coaching strategies for the classroom

- Empowering and coaching family members and caregivers
- Training sessions and workshops to increase families' understanding of ASD
- Early Achievements and Early Intervention Model replication and consultation
- Individualized technical assistance services
- Classroom design and intervention consultations
- Annual Autism Conference
- Free online seminars
- Newsletter

“The staff at CARD was fantastic. You could tell they all really love kids and love what they do. There is so much dedication within Kennedy Krieger’s walls.”

– Shannon Burman, parent

Contact Information

Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute

To make a referral or schedule an appointment, please call **443-923-7630**, or call toll-free at **888-5554-2080**. TTY users, please contact us at **443-923-2645**, or dial **711** to make a Maryland Relay call.

KennedyKrieger.org/CARD

Physicians and Healthcare Professionals

To make a referral, email us at **FindASpecialist@KennedyKrieger.org** or call our Physician Referral Line at **443-923-9403**.

Main Locations

3901 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211

1741 Ashland Avenue, 5th Floor
Baltimore, MD, 21205

For more information about other locations, please call the numbers above.

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