

CARD COMMUNICATOR



Center for Autism and Related Disorders
at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Center for Autism & Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Stay Connected With CARD in 2023

ROAR for Kids 2023

Next month, Kennedy Krieger Institute will host its annual ROAR for Kids family festival, race and fun walk! We hope you will join us for this fun family event on **Saturday, April 29, at Oregon Ridge Park in Cockeysville, Maryland.**



ROAR for Kids will once again feature a 5K race and low-mileage fun walk, which participants may join in person or virtually. The event will also host a resource fair and family festival, which will include the very popular Mascot Challenge and more! Event check-in opens at 6:30 a.m., with the race, walk and festival kicking off at 8 a.m.

When registering for the event, friends and families of the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) may join the CARD Dream Team or create their own team and choose to specify support for CARD. Click [here](#) to join the CARD Dream Team! The funds raised from your registration and additional fundraising efforts will be used to purchase toys and books to train parents and teachers in improving children's language and literacy learning.

Please contact Tara Lewis at LewisTa@KennedyKrieger.org if you have any questions, or if you would like to connect regarding additional CARD fundraising opportunities. We hope to see you there!



Spring 2023 | Volume 10

CARD is hosting its **second annual Autism Acceptance Month Virtual Miniseries in April.** Read about the four presentations below and be on the lookout for more information on registration coming soon.

Title: “The Autism Experience: Conversations With Autistic Adults”

Host: Rebecca Landa, PhD

Title: “Optimizing Autistic Children’s Educational Experiences: Family and Teacher Collaboration”

Host: Ebony Holliday, PhD

Title: “Complex Autism: Addressing High-Support Needs”

Hosts: Rajneesh Mahajan, MD, and Kate McCalla, PhD

Title: “Autism Health Communication With Medical Providers”

Host: Stephanie Morris, MD

Learn More. Get Involved.
Stay Connected.

[KennedyKrieger.org/Connect](https://www.kennedykrieger.org/Connect)



Increase in Autism Prevalence

New Report from the Centers for Disease Control

On March 24, 2023, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released the most recent estimate of the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in the United States (Maenner and colleagues, 2023). Eleven study sites across the United States conducted record reviews of 8-year-olds in 2020 to determine whether children had an autism diagnosis provided by a community medical or education professional.

Across all 11 sites that formed the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network, one in 36 8-year-olds had an autism diagnosis. Autism was 3.8 times more prevalent among boys (approximately 4% of boys) than among girls (approximately 1% of girls). These estimates are higher than previous ADDM Network estimates during 2000–2018. For the first time among children aged 8 years, the prevalence of ASD was lower among White children than among other racial and ethnic groups, reversing the direction of racial and ethnic differences in ASD prevalence observed in the past.

A major clinical implication of the CDC's prevalence findings is for parents to seek autism screening for their child. This is particularly important for younger siblings of a child with autism. Screening should continue beyond the preschool years. Tell your pediatrician if you think that your child is showing signs of autism.

To read the report, click [here](#)

Resources to support early detection of autism:

- [Learn the Signs, Act Early](#) from the CDC
- [Video-guided tutorial](#) on signs of autism in toddlers
- Opportunity to [participate in a study](#) of the accuracy of a new video-guided web-based Social Communication Interaction and Play Screener

CARD Opens New Center in Columbia

CARD is excited to announce the **opening of its fourth site—CARD Columbia**.

Construction began on this state-of-the-art facility in 2022, and the facility is now open and ready to serve patients and students. The new location has Achievements classrooms, an indoor play/motor development space and a variety of treatment rooms for patients to participate in services from a variety of disciplines. The location also houses some of CARD's administrative offices, clinician offices and a conference room. CARD Care Center staff members will be on-site as well. For everyone's comfort, CARD Columbia also has a lactation space, a café and vending area. The facility will continue to grow and will eventually expand to include an additional 7,000 square feet of space, where we will offer programs for adolescents and young adults.

To make an appointment at our Columbia or Odenton locations, or at either of our two Baltimore locations, call **443-923-7630**. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Research Opportunities at CARD

Research is an important part of CARD's mission. Our research programs help drive new discoveries and inform best practice services, supports, treatments and training. Below are some of the research studies open for new participants.

First STEPS: Researchers are studying whether there is a difference between effectiveness of in-person and virtually delivered social communication interventions for toddlers with autism.

Age eligibility: Children ages 18–33 months

View the [flyer](#) or email REACH@KennedyKrieger.org to learn more about participating.

The Early Assessment of Language Markers in Infant Siblings Study (TEAMS):

Researchers are studying how infants learn language early in life.

Age eligibility: Babies ages 6–12 months

View the [flyer](#) or email REACH@KennedyKrieger.org to learn more about participating.

Automated Movement-Based Screener (AMSA): Researchers are testing a new method of screening for autism.

Age eligibility: Children ages 12–16 months

Email REACH@KennedyKrieger.org to learn more about participating.

Social Communication Interaction and Play Screening Tool (SCIPS): Researchers are studying a new web-based social communication screening tool for children that provides narrated videos to help parents answer screening questions about their child's development.

Age eligibility: Children ages 12–36 months

View the [flyer](#) or email REACH@KennedyKrieger.org to learn more about participating.

SPARK for Autism: Researchers are studying the genetic causes of autism to advance understanding of autism.

Age eligibility: Anyone of any age can participate!

Visit the [SPARK for Autism website](#) or email Minton@KennedyKrieger.org to learn more about participating.

CARD Golf Outing

Mark your calendars now for **August 14, 2023, for the second annual CARD Golf Outing!** This event will be held, once again, at the Country Club of Maryland in Towson.

If you are interested in signing up for this event as a golfer or member of the planning committee, contact Joy Johnson at: JohnsonJoy@KennedyKrieger.org

For sponsorship information, contact Leslie Marsiglia at: Marsiglia@KennedyKrieger.org

