Your child has been referred to the Functional Communication Clinic at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) because of his or her difficulties communicating effectively. This clinic is a six-week speech-language training program for parents and caregivers and their children with autism spectrum disorder who have severe difficulty with functional communication.

A speech-language pathologist (SLP) at the clinic will work with you and your child to determine the most effective aids and strategies to increase functional communication. Depending on your child’s current communication skills and needs, strategies may include picture communication books, voice output augmentative and alternative communication devices, and visual schedules or other visual supports for communication.

During each of the six one-hour training sessions, you will learn to teach your child to communicate using the most effective communication aids and techniques for your child. Additionally, the SLP will work with you to develop a functional vocabulary of symbols or pictures for your child. Sessions are customized to your child’s training needs, and allow you to ask questions, practice communication strategies, and problem-solve with the SLP about ways to enhance your child’s communication skills at home, in the community, and at school.

After the six training sessions, we encourage you to return for follow-up sessions to continue to expand your child’s effective communication.

Contact Information
Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute
To make a referral or schedule an appointment, please call 888-554-2080.
For more information about our program, call 443-923-7680.
TTY: 443-923-2645 or Maryland Relay 711
card.kennedykrieger.org

Physicians & Healthcare Professionals
To make a referral, call our Physician Referral Line at 443-923-9403.

Clinic Locations:
3901 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211

1130 Annapolis Road, Suite 200
Odenton, MD 21113