

# 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 spectrum disorders (ASD) community. The center combines research, clinical service, and training programs to unlock the potential of children with ASD, 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 provide interdisciplinary services and comprise our research team, including:

- Behavior analysts
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists
- Clinical psychologists
- Developmental cognitive neuroscientists
- Developmental neurobiologists
- Developmental psychologists
- Epidemiologists
- Genetic counselors
- Geneticists
- Movement scientists
- Neurodevelopmental pediatricians
- Neuropsychologists
- Neuroscientists
- Occupational therapists
- Pediatric neurologists
- Social workers
- Special educators
- Speech-language pathologists
- Statisticians

## Clinical Services

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



For each child, our team develops individual treatment programs that can include behavioral intervention, verbal and augmentative communication treatment, social skills and cognition intervention, occupational therapy, medical management, and family support services. Driven by ongoing research, our clinical programs offer children the most innovative therapies available.

## Achievements Therapeutic Day Program

This program offers four different intervention options, enabling us to provide individualized treatment in small-group settings to children under age 6 who struggle with communication and social interaction. Our comprehensive approach focuses on the most challenging areas for these children: communication, social, emotional, and self-regulatory development. Using best-practice approaches—including applied behavior analysis and others anchored in

We are all born with great potential.  
Shouldn't we all have the chance to achieve it?



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the developmental sciences—we make the classroom not only a place of learning, but also a place to form friendships. 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 into school-age years.

## Research Program:

### Research and Education for Autism in Children (REACH)

Our internationally recognized research program drives our clinical practice and training programs. Our team approach enables us to comprehensively and innovatively research the causes and treatments of ASD.

We are dedicated to translating research into treatments and educational practices. Funded by both federal sources, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and private sources, much of our research is done in collaboration with other national and international autism experts. Some of our research includes:

- Early detection of ASD and other developmental disorders or delays
- Early diagnostic criteria for ASD
- Early intervention for infants and toddlers at risk for ASD
- Understanding and enhancing how children with ASD learn
- Effective methods for training caregivers and family members of children with ASD
- Neuro-immune abnormalities in ASD
- Neurological basis of motor and attention impairments in ASD and their effects on communication
- Early abnormality in neurotransmitters in ASD and the effects on development
- Prevalence of ASD
- Environment-gene interactions in ASD
- Cholesterol abnormalities in ASD

## Outreach and Training

Through outreach and training, we address areas—such as social-communication difficulties—that affect the lives of children with ASD and their families. Through various training methods, we target a wide range of community needs, from child-specific consultations to systemwide change. Our training program extends from local to international sites, benefiting children and families from many ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

### Our outreach and training efforts incorporate:

- In-service training on ASD and intervention
- Clinical practice workshops designed for a wide range of practitioners from a variety of disciplines

- Fidelity and supervision strategies for the classroom
- Empowering and working with families
- Monthly parent training programs
- Parent resource center
- Early Achievements and Early Intervention Model replication consultation
- Annual autism conference
- Individualized outreach and training programs to match the specific needs of the participants
- Professional immersion training in our evidence-based Early Achievements classroom
- Consultations for classroom design and intervention programming
- Center newsletter: A monthly publication that highlights parenting strategies, research updates, and descriptions of our staff and services

*“The staff at CARD were 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 **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

Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes and respects the rights of patients and their families and treats them with courtesy and dignity. Care is provided in a manner that preserves cultural, psychosocial, spiritual and personal values, beliefs, and preferences. We encourage patients and families to become active partners in their care by asking questions, requesting resources, and advocating for the services and support they need.



Learn More. Get Involved. Stay Connected. Visit [KennedyKrieger.org/connect](https://www.kennedykrieger.org/connect).