

Child and Family Support Center at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Who We Are

The Child and Family Support Center at Kennedy Krieger Institute is an interdisciplinary program dedicated to providing comprehensive, early intervention care for children and families in the Baltimore metropolitan area. The center takes a family-directed approach to care, supporting families in setting their own goals for the services they receive.

Our occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech-language pathologists work with children from birth through age 5, while our mental health counselors work with children of any age, as well as with parents and guardians who have a child receiving services at Kennedy Krieger. Together, our therapists, speech-language pathologists and counselors collaborate to help young children fulfill their potential.

We provide individual and group therapies, with services offered at our clinic, in the home, through telehealth and in the community. We also assist families with service coordination through the Baltimore Infants and Toddlers Program (for families residing in Baltimore City only—not available to Baltimore County residents). And we offer early intervention programs focused exclusively on serving the Latino and Orthodox Jewish communities of Baltimore City.

As a family-focused program, we understand that parents and guardians are the experts when it comes to caring for their children. We are dedicated to helping parents and guardians understand, participate in and guide their children's care.

Services We Offer

Our team offers a wide variety of services, including:

- Home- and center-based evaluations and occupational, physical and speech therapies for children, from birth to the start of kindergarten
- Evidence-based therapeutic interventions (e.g., neurodevelopmental treatment, manual therapy, oral-motor feeding therapy and sensory integration)
- Service coordination for families eligible to participate in the Baltimore (City) Infants and Toddlers Program
- Service coordination for families in the Latino community who are eligible to participate in the Baltimore (City) Infants and Toddlers Program (Primeros Pasos)



- Service coordination for families in the Orthodox Jewish community who are eligible to participate in the Baltimore (City) Infants and Toddlers Program (Kodem Kol)
- Offer emotional support to new parents and guardians whose child has feeding concerns
- Suggestions and guidance for parents and guardians in caring for their children at home
- Information for parents and guardians regarding their children's development
- Evaluation, adaptation and monitoring of specialized equipment in the home
- Home, center-based and telehealth mental health counseling for children and adolescents receiving services at Kennedy Krieger, and their parents and guardians
- Evidence-based interventions to enhance caregiver-child attachment for parents and guardians and their young children
- Assistance in accessing community resources
- A lending library of books, toys and equipment



- Groups and special programs for young children, including:
 - **Early Explorers group:** A speech and occupational therapy group that helps children ages 2 to 5 with developmental disabilities prepare for school while meeting individualized therapy goals
 - **Happy Feet group:** A physical therapy group for children 18 months to 4 years old who walk on their toes or have other challenges in developing a normal walking pattern
 - **Tethered Oral Tissue Program:** An interdisciplinary program serving newborns and young infants with feeding challenges due to tethered oral tissues (i.e., tongue and lip ties)

Therapy can be provided in a family’s home, at our center, in schools, at child care centers, at Head Start programs or at any other significant places in a child’s life. Services are provided by appointment, with daytime and limited early evening hours available.



Who We Treat

We treat children from birth to the start of kindergarten who have a variety of developmental disabilities and delays, including:

- Speech and language disorders
- Developmental delays
- Prematurity
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Down syndrome
- Cerebral palsy
- Torticollis
- Plagiocephaly

We also treat children, adolescents and adults with mental health conditions, including:

- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), including the predominantly inattentive presentation, formerly known as attention-deficit disorder (ADD)
- Anxiety disorders
- Mood disorders, such as depression or bipolar disorder
- Adjustment disorder
- Parent-child relationship issues
- Parenting stressors and postpartum mental health

Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes and respects the rights of employees, trainees, and patients and students, and their families. At Kennedy Krieger, we ground our care, services, training and research in treating others with respect and civility. We respect the cultural identity of every person. Kennedy Krieger does not discriminate against people based on, but not limited to, perceived or actual race, color, culture, ethnicity, national origin, age, language spoken, accent, marital status, veteran or military status, immigration status, socioeconomic status (i.e., access to resources), physical or mental disability, religion, pregnancy status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. We strive for equitable care for all individuals for whom we provide services, training, education and research participation. We encourage employees, trainees, and patients and students, and their families, to become active partners in the services provided by asking questions, seeking resources and advocating for their needs. Our culture of care is extended to our patients, the patients’ family members and other persons served. Here, “family” refers to parents, other family members, guardians, surrogate decision-makers and healthcare agents. © 2023 Kennedy Krieger Institute 10/2023



Contact Information

Child and Family Support Center at Kennedy Krieger Institute

For more information or to request services:
443-923-3878

For information about or referral to Primeros Pasos: **443-681-8351** or **667-210-3644**
(Spanish and English)

For information about or referral to Kodem Kol: **667-205-4047**