

Speech-Language Pathology Services at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders

Who We Are

The speech-language pathologists at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute are trained in providing specialized evaluations and interventions to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of communication disorders in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Our Team

Each of our speech-language pathologists holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and is licensed to practice in Maryland. They also receive training in specialized ASD assessment tools and evidence-based treatment approaches for children with ASD, and regularly attend continuing education classes to stay informed about the latest in evidence-based practice. Many of our speech-language pathologists have received the ASHA Award for Continuing Education based on their exemplary commitment to ongoing learning and training.

Our Services

Our speech-language pathologists provide a variety of evaluation and treatment services for children who have, or are suspected of having, ASD.

Evaluations

- **Diagnostic team evaluations:** Our speech-language pathologists join other Institute professionals—including psychiatrists, developmental pediatricians, neurologists and psychologists—to form diagnostic teams that provide differential diagnoses regarding ASD. As part of a diagnostic team, a speech-language pathologist may administer the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, a “gold standard” diagnostic tool used to assist in the diagnosis of ASD.
- **Toddler team evaluations:** Our toddler team is a specialized diagnostic team consisting of clinicians trained in the early detection of ASD. The speech-language pathologists who are part of the toddler team have trained with leading researcher and clinician Rebecca Landa, PhD, CCC-SLP, founder and executive director of CARD, to detect signs of ASD in children as young as 12 months, leading to early intervention and improved outcomes.



- **Transition team evaluations:** Our transition team specializes in providing comprehensive interdisciplinary evaluations for adolescents in preparation for their transition to adulthood. This team performs neuropsychological, speech-language, occupational and social work evaluations. Based on evaluation of an adolescent’s strengths and needs, the team makes recommendations for planning to help build independence in adulthood. Areas addressed may include educational and academic needs, daily living skills, employment and housing options, health, self-advocacy, and safety.
- **Evaluations for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC):** Our assistive technology program works with children who do not currently have a functional and reliable means of communication. These children may benefit from the Picture Exchange Communication System or other low- or high-tech AAC devices. We provide evaluations to identify the most appropriate AAC device or intervention, and when appropriate, we assist families with obtaining insurance funding for recommended high-tech AAC devices. We also train children and their parents and caregivers on the use of their AAC system.

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



Center for Autism and Related Disorders
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- **Evaluations of speech and language development:** Our speech-language pathologists evaluate each child's language development, including receptive, expressive and pragmatic (social) language skills. They also evaluate articulation and speech production skills. A child's play skills may also be assessed in this evaluation.

Our skilled clinicians administer, score and interpret standardized tests and informal assessments to determine specific areas of need. Every evaluation done at our center is followed by a written report that includes evaluation results and treatment recommendations related to a child's speech, language and social-communicative needs.

Treatment

As part of our comprehensive center's offerings, our speech-language pathologists provide a variety of treatment options for toddlers, school-age children, adolescents and parents.

- **Individual therapy:** Children participate in weekly therapy sessions with a speech-language pathologist who develops individual goals and objectives to improve identified areas of need.
- **Group therapy:** Group therapy services range from small group therapy (two children) to larger group therapy (up to five or six children). Children are grouped based on age and communication needs to ensure that those in the same group are working on similar goals. Group sessions may meet one or two times per week.
- **Parent-child training:** Our center offers many short-term parent-child training programs, which are typically conducted over a series of six to 12 treatment sessions. At each session, a speech-language pathologist works with a child and the child's parent or caregiver to teach skills that parents and caregivers can use at home to foster play, language and communication skills.
 - **JumpStart:** This short-term intervention program is designed for newly diagnosed toddlers and their parents and caregivers. A speech-language pathologist coaches parents and caregivers in using evidence-based strategies that capitalize on learning opportunities occurring during daily routines and favorite activities to promote the development of the child's language, play and social interaction skills.

Community Outreach

Our speech-language pathologists often give lectures and lead training sessions at CARD and in the community on a variety of topics, such as diagnosing ASD, designing and implementing social skills groups, and using visual strategies with children who have ASD.

Our Research

Many of our speech-language pathologists participate in grant-funded research. A number of our current research projects look at early detection of, and early intervention for, ASD. Some of our clinicians conduct evaluations and interventions as part of research projects.

Contact Information

Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call **443-923-7630**, or call toll-free at **888-554-2080**. 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, 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 information about other locations, please call the numbers above.

Mailing Address

707 North Broadway
Baltimore, MD 21205

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