

Pediatric Developmental Disabilities Clinic



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



Kennedy Krieger Institute
UNLOCKING POTENTIAL





Clinic Overview

Children with mild, moderate and severe developmental delays and disorders, such as autism spectrum disorder or intellectual disability, often display behavioral challenges including meltdowns, noncompliance, verbal or physical aggression, and anxiety. These behaviors can place significant stress on children as well as their parents and families. They can also create substantial barriers to participating in everyday activities, both at home and in the community. Typical parenting and teaching strategies and traditional outpatient mental health services may not always successfully address these problems. Our unique clinic specializes in meeting these needs by treating the challenging behaviors that interfere with learning, socialization and daily living.



The Pediatric Developmental Disabilities Clinic

The Pediatric Developmental Disabilities Clinic is part of the Department of Behavioral Psychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute. Our clinic includes licensed psychologists, board-certified behavior analysts, and other staff members with expertise in behavioral psychology and the assessment and treatment of behavioral difficulties displayed by individuals with developmental delays or disabilities. The frequency and duration of services vary based on the clinical needs of each child and family. Sessions are typically conducted in the clinic. When indicated, consultations with school teams and other interdisciplinary care providers are also available.

Our Treatment Services

Our techniques are based on extensive research and experience, and are tailored to the unique needs of each child and family. Our services begin with an individualized behavioral assessment that looks at not only specific problem behaviors, but also factors surrounding these behaviors. The assessment includes identifying important child characteristics, such as specific strengths or skills deficits, and other factors that might influence the occurrence of maladaptive behaviors. Intervention is then developed based on understanding why the behavior problems occur and how we can best intervene. Thus, treatment might consist of multiple components that include:

- Identifying and teaching adaptive and socially acceptable behaviors to replace maladaptive behaviors
- Educating parents about specific developmental challenges and how they can affect a child's behavior
- Training parents to help prevent and decrease the frequency of difficult behaviors
- Helping parents expand these skills to home and community settings





Sample of Problem Behaviors Addressed

- Aggression
- Bedwetting
- Communication deficits
- Disruptive behaviors
- Elopement
- Noncompliance
- Pica (ingesting nonfood items)
- Property destruction
- Self-injurious behaviors
- Sleep problems
- Tantrums and meltdowns
- Toileting skills deficits



Diagnoses Served

- Autism spectrum disorder
- Cerebral palsy
- Developmental delay
- Disruptive behavior disorder
- Down syndrome
- Incontinence
- Intellectual disability
- Language delay and disorder



Contact Information

To make a referral or to schedule an appointment with the Pediatric Developmental Disabilities Clinic, please call **443-923-7508** or Maryland Relay **711**.

Referral specialists are available:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Clinic hours:

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Program Director

Nancy Grace, PhD, BCBA-D

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