WHAT IS TRIAD?

TRIAD is dedicated to improving assessment and treatment services for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families, while advancing knowledge and training.

TRIAD programs address community needs for cutting-edge information, high-quality support, and innovative interventions for children with autism spectrum disorders.

TRIAD is a program of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development and is affiliated with its University Center for Excellence in Disabilities. TRIAD also partners with the Center for Child Development, Vanderbilt Department of Pediatrics, and with the Vanderbilt Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Training program.

WHAT IS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER?

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) refers to a common group of neurodevelopmental disorders that affect social interaction, language and communication, and behavior. Although these areas of challenges are common to ASD, this brain-based disorder affects individuals in different ways, including variability in when symptoms start, how severe they are, and the exact nature of the symptoms.
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SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Diagnostic and Evaluation Services
Clinical diagnostic evaluations for children of various ages who have or are suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder are facilitated through clinics within the Center for Child Development, Vanderbilt Department of Pediatrics. These services also are commonly offered by TRIAD-affiliated research studies.

Families First Workshops
TRIAD routinely offers workshops for parents of children diagnosed with ASD. Workshop topics vary but focus on common themes:
- Learning how to enhance social and communication skills
- Developing strategies for addressing challenging behavior
- Increasing adaptive behavior skills across family activities

Research projects often include services for families as part of their investigations. While specific services and availability vary substantially over time, these offerings often incorporate diagnostic assessment or re-evaluation, intervention opportunities, or monitoring the development of younger siblings. The Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line can assist you in learning about research opportunities.

Training Services
TRIAD offers a variety of training opportunities for school personnel, parents, and community providers, e.g., pediatricians and psychologists. Workshops focus on topics related to evidence-based behavioral and educational interventions for children and youth with ASD. Workshops also can be designed to meet the training needs of specific audiences. Workshop information and registration is available through the TRIAD website.

Educational Consultation
TRIAD offers child and program-specific educational consultations at the request of school districts. Collaborative child-focused consultations are available to school personnel who have questions or concerns about the academic and behavioral performance of individual students. Program consultations are available to assist teachers and other school personnel in developing and implementing specialized programs for students with ASD, such as implementing a social skills curriculum or developing a coordinated plan for positive behavior supports throughout the day.

TRIAD RESEARCH
TRIAD-directed research programs and partnerships examine the causes and treatment of ASD. TRIAD projects include research on:
- Diagnosis of ASD
- Early intervention for children with ASD
- Identification of genetic and core behavioral features of autism
- Nature and treatment of common medical disturbances in ASD
- Developing technological tools for ASD intervention
- Development of siblings of children with ASD
- Understanding the health and well-being of parents who have children with ASD.

For information on studies, contact the Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line. Online visit StudyFinder kc.vanderbilt.edu/studyfinder.

OTHER VANDERBILT AUTISM RESOURCES
Vanderbilt ATN
Vanderbilt is a field site within the Autism Treatment Network (ATN). The ATN is a consortium of medical centers in North America providing clinical services and generating a research registry that will be used to identify evidence-based standards of medical care for children and adolescents with ASD. The Vanderbilt ATN includes specialists in pediatrics, gastroenterology, genetics/metabolics, psychiatry, neurology, and sleep.

Information and Referral
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For information on autism resources external to Vanderbilt, contact Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, a free information and referral service for all types of disabilities and all ages. Local (615) 322-8529, (1-800) 640-4638. Website www.familypathfinder.org
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