

## TRIAD

### TREATMENT AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

#### WHAT IS TRIAD?

TRIAD is an institute whose goal is to improve assessment and treatment services for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families, while advancing knowledge and training.

TRIAD programs address community needs for cutting-edge information, high-quality support, training, and innovative treatments for children with ASD. Additional information on TRIAD programs can be found at [triad.vumc.org](http://triad.vumc.org).

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

#### WHAT IS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER?

ASD is a complex brain-based disorder that affects many areas of development, including social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, play, behavior, and interests. Symptoms show up early in life, usually before 3 years of age.

#### SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

##### DIAGNOSTIC AND EVALUATION SERVICES

Diagnostic evaluations for children whose parents or doctors are concerned about ASD are conducted in the Center for Child Development (CCD), Vanderbilt Department of Pediatrics. Families can ask their pediatrician for a referral. A referral form (on CCD website) must be completed before scheduling an appointment. They can call the Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line to learn about services, (615) 322-7565 or (1-877) ASD-VUMC.

##### FAMILIES FIRST WORKSHOPS

TRIAD offers many workshops during the year for parents of young children with ASD. Topics change monthly but tend to focus on these areas:

- Learning how to boost social and communication skills
- Developing ways to reduce challenging behavior
- Increasing child's ability to take part in family activities

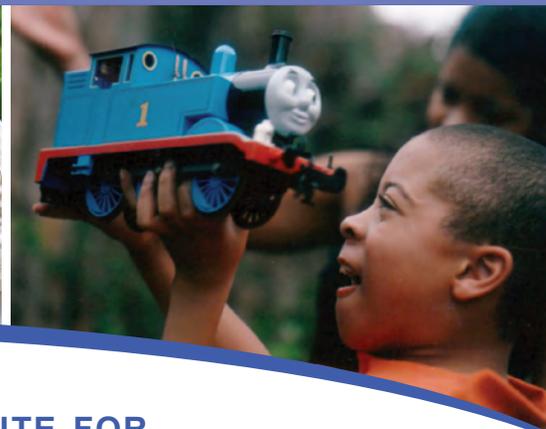
##### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

TRIAD offers many kinds of training opportunities for school personnel, parents, and community providers, such as nurses, pediatricians, and psychologists. Professional development opportunities cover topics related to evidence-based behavioral and educational interventions for children and youth with ASD. These opportunities range from brief online modules to multiday interactive workshops presented throughout the academic year. Many are presented at no cost to participants through sponsorship by the Tennessee Department of Education. TRIAD's team also can develop fee-based events and/or resources at the request of school systems or community agencies to meet the training needs of specific audiences.

##### BEHAVIORAL AND 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 help teachers and other school personnel create and implement individualized plans for students with ASD, such as a social skills curriculum or a coordinated plan for using positive behavior supports.





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TRIAD RESEARCH

Research programs and partnerships through TRIAD as well as other parts of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, Vanderbilt University, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) investigate the causes and treatment of ASD. Studies cover a broad range of topics, including:

- Diagnosis
- Early intervention
- Identification of genetic and core behavioral features
- Course and treatment of common medical issues, including sleep disorders
- Developing technological treatment tools
- Transition from high school and vocational preparation
- Development of siblings of children with ASD
- Promoting the health and well-being of parents who have children with ASD.

Research studies may include services for families. Although specific services and availability change over time, examples include diagnostic testing or re-evaluation, treatment opportunities, or monitoring the development of younger siblings.

For information on studies, contact the Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line or visit the StudyFinder website ([vkc.vumc.org/studyfinder/](http://vkc.vumc.org/studyfinder/)), selecting "autism spectrum disorder."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

TRIAD partners with community cultural and civic organizations as the Inclusion Network of Nashville to work together to promote full inclusion of all children and adults. Network activities include staff trainings to increase awareness, the development of research-based supports to increase accessibility for families, and inclusive or modified performances and activities.

OTHER VANDERBILT AUTISM RESOURCES

VANDERBILT ATN

VUMC is a field site within the Autism Treatment Network (ATN) supported by Autism Speaks. 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.

ASD INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

The **Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line** is a gateway to clinical and research programs and resources at Vanderbilt University and VUMC. Staffed by an autism information specialist, this helpline serves families, caregivers, clinicians, educators, and others in need of ASD-related resources at Vanderbilt.

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) 640-4636; website [www.familypathfinder.org](http://www.familypathfinder.org); email [tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu).

CONTACT

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TRIAD Training and Education: (615) 875-9819  
Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line: (615) 322-7565 or toll-free (1-877) ASD-VUMC

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