



# Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

## WHO WE ARE

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development (VKC) has been opening doors and transforming the lives of children and adults with disabilities through research, training, and innovative services for more than 60 years. Our mission is to facilitate discoveries and best practices to improve the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. We support and apply scientific research to bring better services and training to our communities.

We are a national *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC). More than 200 researchers representing 34 departments of Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center bring their expertise to understanding how humans develop and to finding solutions to developmental challenges. We serve Tennessee and the Mid-South as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD). We train health care professionals through the Vanderbilt Consortium Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program. We address autism through the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD).

## WHO WE SERVE

The need is great. One in 5 children has a developmental disability. Examples of these lifelong conditions include autism, Down syndrome and other genetic syndromes, and other intellectual disabilities. The developmental concerns of Center researchers and clinicians are broad, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, behavior disorders, depression, learning disabilities, sensory impairments, schizophrenia, mental health, and chronic health conditions. In understanding and treating disabilities, researchers and clinicians consider individual and family strengths and resources as well as challenges across the lifespan.

## TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

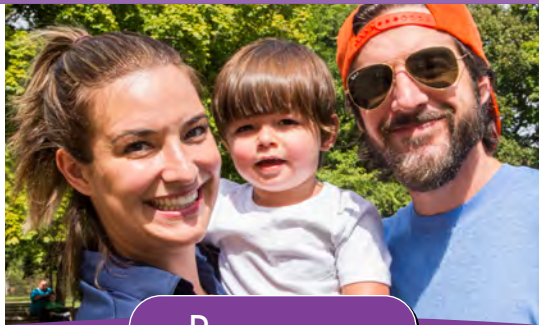
[vkc.vumc.org/studyfinder](http://vkc.vumc.org/studyfinder)  
[www.researchmatch.org](http://www.researchmatch.org)

## INFORMATION

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## Programs

Some programs provided at no cost to families. See website for details.

### Arts and Disabilities Program (615) 936-8852

Quarterly exhibits of art by persons with disabilities and art workshops.

### Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line (615) 322-7565

Toll-free (877) 273-8862

A gateway to Vanderbilt clinical and research programs and resources.

### Autism–TRIAD Families First Program (615) 322-7565

Provides parents of children with autism with techniques to enhance social and communication skills and to manage challenging behaviors.

### Autism–TRIAD Training and Education (615) 875-9819

The Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) provides services and training for families, educators, and other professionals; conducts school consultations; and consults with community organizations.

### Henderson Training Series for Educators (615) 936-8852

Provides evidence-based training for school teams of general and special educators to support inclusive education and transition to postsecondary education and employment.

### [iddtoolkit.org](http://iddtoolkit.org)

Toolkit for primary care providers serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, related online training, and telehealth sessions.

### Learning Assessment Clinic (615) 936-5118

Multidisciplinary specialists provide academic assessment of students, 5-25 years, to identify learning strengths and challenges and to recommend strategies to improve academic learning.

### Next Steps at Vanderbilt (615) 322-3978

Inclusive 4-year certificate program for persons ages 18-26 with intellectual disability on the Vanderbilt campus. See also TN Inclusive Higher Education Alliance, [tnihealliance.org](http://tnihealliance.org)

### Online Learning, [vkclearning.org](http://vkclearning.org)

Video-based training for health care providers, educators, service providers, and families.

### Publications and Events (615) 322-8240

### Tennessee Disability Pathfinder Multicultural Outreach Program (615) 322-8529 (Nashville) (800) 640-4636 (statewide) [TNPathfinder.org](http://TNPathfinder.org)

A free statewide, multilingual clearinghouse of disability resources. Phone helpline, website with searchable Services Database, Community Calendar, newsletter, and training. A partnership with State of Tennessee agencies.

### [TransitionTN.org](http://TransitionTN.org)

Resources to prepare transition-age youth with disabilities for life after high school.

### Vanderbilt Rett Syndrome Program

[vkc.vumc.org/rett](http://vkc.vumc.org/rett)

One of seven Rett Syndrome Research Trust Clinical Trial Consortium sites and designated as a Rett Syndrome Clinical Research Center of Excellence.

### Volunteer Advocacy Project (VAP) [VolAP@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:VolAP@vanderbilt.edu)

Training (40 hrs over 12 sessions) for persons interested in becoming special education advocates to support families, held at multiple TN sites.