



The Center for Child Development

Reimagining our model of developmental,
mental and behavioral health care to increase access

Since 2019, Children's Wisconsin has been creating solutions to confront the mental and behavioral health crisis that our kids face today — a crisis that cuts across every corner, demographic, age and zip code. We are transforming how we deliver care to integrate mental and behavioral health services at every touch point, and are leading the nation with a groundbreaking model of care that enables us to detect problems sooner, increase access to services, reduce the stigma, and advance research and education.

And yet, we are not reaching all the kids and families who need us. **The reimagined Center for Child Development is part of our transformational vision, which will ensure that all kids with neurodivergence can live to their fullest potential.**

In 2022, Children's Wisconsin conducted more than 5,000 visits for kids and families with autism spectrum disorder, developmental and cognitive delays, attention and behavioral disorders, and related conditions. The demand for autism and child development services has only grown, and we have exceeded our capacity with more than 2,000 kids and teens on our waitlist, leading to frustration from families and referring providers. **We won't stop until every child in Wisconsin gets the support they need, at the right time, to grow up healthy and thriving.**

NEURODIVERGENT REFERS TO SOMEONE WHO PROCESSES THE WORLD, LEARNS OR COMMUNICATES DIFFERENTLY. EXAMPLES OF CONDITIONS INCLUDE: AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD), ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD), INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND TOURETTE SYNDROME.

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To increase access, Children's Wisconsin opened the Center for Child Development. The new building has nearly three times the space of the previous location and serves as a **regional hub for coordinated, comprehensive services**, including timelier follow-up on concerns about developmental issues like ASD and ADHD, autism support to primary care providers, patients and families, specialty care such as neurology, mental and behavioral health, and occupational, physical and speech therapy. With all these services under one roof, parents miss less work and kids can spend more time in school and doing activities that allow them to just be kids.



Every aspect of the building was **designed for kids with neurodivergence**, from the quiet and easily accessible entrance to outdoor calming spaces and varied sensory experiences throughout the clinic. The center will house an **expanded team**, enabling **community outreach** and driving **research**. Families can come to us at any point in their journey — from diagnosis through treatment — to better understand the impact of developmental and behavioral challenges on their child's life, engage with resources and learn about advocacy opportunities with schools and therapy providers.

The center will also add curriculum to **educate teachers, daycare providers, first responders and others in the community** on how to work safely and effectively with kids with developmental and behavioral challenges. This work is underscored by research to advance our understanding and care — and we will continue to share what we learn with colleagues nationwide to help even more kids.

“We will not be done once the building doors open. Instead, the building will represent a newfound commitment to our community, serving as a springboard to strengthen our pillars and advance our mission. With continued philanthropic support, each of these touchpoints will help improve the lives of all kids with developmental and behavioral challenges and their families.”

-Daniel Schulteis, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician and Director of Autism Services at Children's Wisconsin

The transformational power of your philanthropy

We know there is a long path ahead of us, but we recognize the immediate need and are working to change the model of care and increase access for kids and families today, while refining and evaluating our program. This work is not reimbursable, so **philanthropy will be essential to meet the community's needs now and into the future**, especially while we continue to push for better reimbursement in mental and behavioral health services. **You generosity means children can have brighter futures.**



For more information and to explore opportunities, please contact Kara Muchow, Senior Director of Development, at (920) 205-8717 or kmuchow@childrenswi.org.