

PACT

HELPING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



In my mind, I am full of hope. I can touch the sky. I can do anything. In my mind, I am strong as a lion. I am astonishing. I am full of dreams. In my mind, I fly like the wind. I am very brave. I am a champion. In

Every child is born with great potential.

Shouldn't every child have the chance to achieve it?

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Overview

For more than 25 years PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs, an independent affiliate of the Kennedy Krieger Institute, has promoted the development of children with special needs and their families through programs providing comprehensive assessments, early intervention services, family support services, parent education, counseling, specialized child care, and professional training.

PACT is committed to providing outstanding, state-of-the-art services for more than 1,000 children and families each year through our five programs: World of Care, the Comprehensive Therapy Center, the Inclusive Child Care Training Program, Growing Together, and the Therapeutic Nurseries.

Through ongoing staff training and continuous interactions with other providers, PACT keeps abreast of the latest techniques for helping children with special needs. PACT has taken a leadership role in the field by designing and implementing programs not duplicated anywhere in the Baltimore metropolitan region.

Who We Serve

Each year, PACT makes a significant impact on the lives of young children with special needs and their families, including but not limited to children with:

- Cerebral palsy
- Heart and breathing problems
- Autism spectrum disorders
- Speech language disorders
- Physical/motor disabilities
- Down syndrome
- Seizure disorders
- Spina bifida
- Severe food allergies
- Juvenile diabetes
- Feeding disorders
- Attachment disorders
- Sensory processing disorder
- Developmental delays
- Intellectual disabilities



PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs is an impact partner of the United Way of Central Maryland.





“As we have watched our tiny infant blossom into an active joyful toddler, we have come to realize that PACT is so much more than a day care — it is a lifeline of hope for parents of children with special circumstances. Words cannot express how thankful we are that a place like this exists.”

-PACT parent



Our Programs

We offer innovative programs in a nurturing, family-focused environment. These include the following:

World of Care is the only child care center in Central Maryland designed to care for children under the age of five whose medical needs require daily nursing interventions. The program is staffed by nurses, social workers, therapists, and highly trained child care workers. World of Care offers family counseling to help parents cope with the challenges of raising a child with significant medical needs. The center also provides service coordination to assist families in transitioning their children to school or other settings.

The Comprehensive Therapy Center provides evaluations and physical, occupational, and speech/language therapy for children ages six weeks and up. The program also provides counseling and assistance in finding school programs and other resources for children, as needed. In addition, the center provides assessments and therapies in community-based settings.

Growing Together provides training and support to parents with intellectual disabilities who have children under age three. The only program of its type in Maryland, Growing Together also monitors the developmental progress of the children and provides therapy through the Comprehensive Therapy Center, as needed.

The Therapeutic Nursery is the only child care and Early Head Start program in Baltimore specifically designed for infants and toddlers whose families are living in homeless shelters. PACT also has a second nursery, **Family Roots**, for infants and toddlers and their parents who were homeless but are now living in the community. In addition to developmental screenings and therapies, both programs also offer a mental health component designed to strengthen families and promote parent-child bonding. Staff from these programs also offer training to other organizations that serve children who are at high risk for developing emotional and developmental disabilities.

The Inclusive Child Care Training Program provides training, consultation, and mentoring to child care providers to help them include children with special needs in their programs. This initiative is designed to increase the number of high-quality early care and education programs in Maryland, and to help ensure that children enter school fully ready to learn.



Lynsey's Story

“Mommy, I can do it myself! Let me go!” says three-year-old Lynsey smiling with confidence as she struggles to stand and take a step. Born three months premature, Lynsey spent months in the neonatal intensive care unit and was discharged with heart and lung monitors. Soon after, she began having infantile spasms, and her mother, Toni, had to administer daily injections to control them. At age one, Lynsey was diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy. No one was able to predict Lynsey’s potential to talk and walk.

Toni enrolled Lynsey in a day care center so that she could return to work, but the center wasn’t able to give her daughter the care she needed. She often sat propped up and watched the other children run around and play. Toni began to look for a place that would not only provide specialized care, but also challenge Lynsey. The search led her to the World of Care program at PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs.

While enrolled at PACT, Lynsey developed physically, mentally, and socially. The staff expected her to participate in classroom activities, and Lynsey was eager to join in with her classmates. PACT therapists and child care workers helped Lynsey build her skills, while nurses monitored and addressed her medical needs. Most importantly, the staff adapted daily activities for her. No longer propped up and watching her classmates have fun, now Lynsey is right out there with them.

“Lynsey is such a blessing,” says Toni. “She amazes me every day by understanding things I never thought she would.”





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