What are the benefits for me and my child?

A visit to the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Clinic may:

- Reassure you that your child is on target in their development, or
- Help you be aware of issues so you can take action to keep them from becoming a problem

After your clinic visit, we will:

- Give you a detailed report of your child’s developmental, cognitive, and behavioral strengths and weaknesses
- Suggest ways to enhance your child’s development
- Provide information on school readiness, peer relations, coping, resources, or other concerns

What are the costs?

Health insurance covers most clinic visits. Costs depend on the age of your child and how many specialists you see.

Please talk with your health insurance company about what services they cover, what co-pays you will need to pay, and if you need authorization before your clinic visit.

Where is the clinic?

Our clinic is at the Center on Human Development and Disability (CHDD), just south of University of Washington Medical Center (see map on back panel). Parking in the S1 parking garage costs $15. We will reimburse you for this fee after your visit.
What is the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Clinic?

Children with congenital heart disease are at risk for developmental problems. Our clinic helps find problems early, provides ongoing monitoring, and suggests treatments and therapies.

Some of the areas we can help with are:
- Motor and cognitive (thinking) skills
- Emotional, behavioral, and social development
- Feeding skills
- Speech and language development
- Play skills and visual-spatial skills (the ability to observe and work with objects in space)
- Attention, learning, and memory
- Being ready for school

Does my child need to visit the clinic?

If your child had heart surgery before 1 year of age, the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Heart Association advise that your child have regular follow-up visits to check on their development. This follow-up is especially important during the first 3 years of life.

How does my child get referred?

All infants who have heart surgery at Seattle Children’s Hospital before 1 year of age are referred to the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Clinic by either their cardiologist (heart doctor) or their primary care provider. You can schedule visits up to 1 year ahead.

Who will assess my child?

At your clinic visit, your child may see many experts on our care team:
- Developmental behavioral pediatrician
- Psychologist
- Nutritionist
- Social worker
- Audiologist
- Physical therapist
- Occupational therapist
- Speech therapist

How long do visits last?

The length of your clinic visit depends on how many specialists you see. Most visits last 2 to 3 hours. As a part of our program, you will bring your child for a visit once a year until your child is 3 years old. We also assess older children when their doctor refers them to us.

How does the clinic work with Early Intervention programs?

Early Intervention programs provide services such as physical, occupational, and speech therapy in your home. Our clinic identifies children who need these services. We can also suggest treatment goals for your child’s Early Intervention team to work with.