Welcome to the Munroe-Meyer Institute Department of Psychology, Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI), a unit of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, is an interdisciplinary University Center on Disabilities providing clinical services and training for a wide variety of infant, child, and adolescent behavioral, social-emotional, physical, medical, and cognitive disabilities. Services are provided at MMI, in hospitals, in schools, and in community-based clinics throughout Nebraska.

Faculty members in the Psychology Department provide clinical services and conduct research and training devoted to the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of persons with a wide range of developmental and behavioral issues. Each faculty member has extensive experience with common behavioral and emotional problems of childhood, along with specialized areas of expertise (e.g., ADHD, sleep, toileting, school problems, chronic illness, pain management) for which the faculty member is regionally or nationally recognized.

Our department’s commitment to education, training, and research ensures that your child will receive the most effective, up-to-date care that pediatric psychology has to offer.

Clinical Services

Sessions are typically conducted at MMI or in one of our outreach clinics. However, we also conduct home or school visits if necessary. We provide an initial assessment of your concerns at the time of your first visit or consultation. Results from that assessment are reviewed and recommendations for treatment are given at that time. Most childhood problems can be effectively addressed in a short period of time. If we cannot be of service to you and/or your family, we can assist you in finding other resources.

Additional Services

Our faculty are available to provide statewide training, consultation, workshops, or media interviews. Please call 1-800-65-MEYER or, in the Omaha area, 559-5730, to inquire about scheduling. In addition, Project BEST-CASE (Building Empirically Supported Treatments: Communication, Adaptive/Academic, & Social Skills Education) provides intensive treatment of young children with autistic spectrum disorders.

How to Make An Appointment

Please call the Munroe-Meyer Institute at either 402-559-5730, or toll-free at 1-800-656-3937 ext. 5730, and ask to schedule an appointment and determine insurance eligibility. You may be asked some general questions to assist in determining which therapist may best meet your needs.

You will be sent questionnaires to be completed before your appointment. It is important that you complete and return these forms as they will assist the therapist in addressing your concerns and making a complete assessment.

If behavior in the school setting is a concern, we will request that school records also be provided.
Joseph H. Evans, Ph.D., is Associate Director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute and the Director of the Psychology Department at MMI. He is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He was formerly on the staff at Boys Town and at the University of South Florida, Florida Mental Health Institute. Dr. Evans established the ADHD Diagnostic Clinic at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and specializes in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADD, and Asperger's Syndrome. Dr. Evans has been awarded over four million dollars in grant support and research grants and is interested in the development of training programs for families and children with Asperger's Syndrome.

Brett R. Kuhn, Ph.D., is a Licensed Psychologist and Associate Professor of Pediatrics. He received his Bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina (USC), and a post-doctoral fellowship in behavioral pediatrics at the Munroe-Meyer Institute in Omaha. Dr. Kuhn provides services for the state outreach genetics team, the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Clinic, and the Millard Behavioral Health Clinic. He has been directing the Pediatric Sleep Clinic for the past 7 years. Dr. Kuhn has extensive clinical and research experience with children who present with disruptive behavior disorders, sleep disorders, and elimination (toileting) problems.

Judith R. Mathews, Ph.D., is a Licensed Psychologist specializing in Behavioral Pediatrics. Her area of interest includes medical adherence, adjustment to chronic illness, illness-related fears and anxiety, common behavioral difficulties in children with chronic conditions, pain management, and feeding problems in young children. In addition to assessing and treating young children with feeding disorders as a member of the Feeding and Swallowing Team, she and her fellow team members are currently training other professionals throughout the state to provide regional services. At Munroe-Meyer Institute, she is part of interdisciplinary teams in Feeding and Swallowing, Diabetes, and Spina Bifida. She also spends part of her time in outreach Behavioral Health Clinics, where she sees a variety of common childhood problems including anxiety disorders, ADHD, disruptive behaviors, and school-related difficulties.

Mark D. Shriver, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, and a Licensed Psychologist specializing in behavioral pediatrics. Dr. Shriver directs the Academic Evaluation and Intervention Clinic. Early childhood education is also a focus of research and practice and Dr. Shriver has consulted with numerous early education agencies, day cares and preschools in the Omaha Metropolitan Area. His clinical practice at MMI involves working directly with parents and other child care providers to evaluate and treat common childhood problems including noncompliance, tantrums/aggression, elimination (toileting) problems, sleep problems, as well as ADHD, Pervasive Developmental Disorders, selective mutism, and anxiety disorders.

Jodi Polaha, Ph.D., is a Licensed Psychologist whose practice and research interests focus on the provision of behavioral health services in primary care settings. To that end, Dr. Polaha coordinates research, training, and service activities at Behavioral Health Clinics in pediatric practices around Nebraska. She has conducted extensive clinical and research work in the area of ADHD and conduct problems in children. Her current research program is focused on behavioral health in primary care including studies of physician’s behavioral health recommendations, behavioral treatment effectiveness in pediatric practice, and the relationship between medical use and behavioral service provision. In addition, she has pursued a secondary interest in motivation and performance psychology and has consulted in the area of motivation and performance for various Omaha swim teams.

Our Faculty...

Keith D. Allen, Ph.D., is Professor of Pediatrics and a Licensed Psychologist specializing in Behavioral Pediatrics. Dr. Allen has extensive clinical and research experience in biofeedback and the management of pain and stress-related disorders in children. He also has done extensive work with parents in managing common childhood behavior concerns as well as assisting families in managing health-behavior problems. Finally, Dr. Allen works with schools and families to develop behavioral programs to teach adaptive social and communication skills to children with pervasive developmental disorders and autism, and to effectively manage behavioral concerns in the classroom.

William J. Warzak, Ph.D., is Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics and a Licensed Psychologist specializing in Behavioral Pediatrics. Warzak served three years as Chief, Pediatric Rehabilitation Psychology at the University of Michigan Medical Center, Mott Children’s Hospital, prior to coming to UNMC in 1987. His clinical practice is focused on common everyday problems of childhood (e.g., tantrums, noncompliance, school-related problems), elimination disorders, anxiety disorders (e.g., phobias, obsessive-compulsive disorder), and evaluation of children with brain injuries through the Neuropsychology Service of Munroe-Meyer Institute.

Rachel J. Valleley, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and a Licensed Psychologist specializing in providing behavioral health services within medical settings. Dr. Valleley primarily provides clinical services to families and trainee to undergraduate and graduate students in rural areas of Nebraska. Primary research interests include integrating behavioral health services within primary care, academic interventions, and how to impact treatment integrity.

Stephanie L. Miles, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics who provides behavioral services in a primary care setting. Dr. Miles works in the Hastings Behavioral Health Clinic which is located in the Children and Adolescent Clinic, P.C. office in Hastings, Nebraska. The Hastings Clinic is one of several behavioral health clinics established by Munroe-Meyer to provide services to families of children referred by their primary care physician for behavioral, emotional, social, developmental, or academic difficulties. Within the primary care setting, Dr. Miles is able to consult with the physicians on a daily basis regarding patients referred by them. Dr. Miles is also able to consult with the physicians on a daily basis regarding patients referred by them. Dr. Miles is currently training other professionals throughout the state to provide regional services. At Munroe-Meyer Institute, she is part of interdisciplinary teams in Feeding and Swallowing, Diabetes, and Spina Bifida. She also is part of the Feeding and Swallowing Team, and she and her fellow team members are currently training other professionals throughout the state to provide regional services. At Munroe-Meyer Institute, she is part of interdisciplinary teams in Feeding and Swallowing, Diabetes, and Spina Bifida. She also is part of the Feeding and Swallowing Team, and she and her fellow team members are currently training other professionals throughout the state to provide regional services.

Susan M. Wilczynski, Ph.D., is a Licensed Psychologist who applied and research interests address treatment of children with autistic disorders, anxiety disorders, and school-related difficulties. She also is part of the Feeding and Swallowing Team, and she and her fellow team members are currently training other professionals throughout the state to provide regional services. At Munroe-Meyer Institute, she is part of interdisciplinary teams in Feeding and Swallowing, Diabetes, and Spina Bifida. She also is part of the Feeding and Swallowing Team, and she and her fellow team members are currently training other professionals throughout the state to provide regional services. At Munroe-Meyer Institute, she is part of interdisciplinary teams in Feeding and Swallowing, Diabetes, and Spina Bifida. She also spends part of her time in outreach Behavioral Health Clinics, where she sees a variety of common childhood problems including anxiety disorders, ADHD, disruptive behaviors, and school-related difficulties.