

# Northland

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

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Kansas City, MO 64155  
[www.nееckids.org](http://www.nееckids.org)  
(816) 420-9005



# LEADING THE WAY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

in early intervention  
and  
education



# About Us

Northland Early Education Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and the premier early childcare and therapy center for children with special needs and typical needs in the Kansas City, MO metro.

Founded in 1981 by a group of concerned parents, we are a nationally accredited early education and therapy center that provides a variety of inclusive programs to ensure every child is given the chance they deserve. These services are offered in a recently renovated and expanded facility, featuring 12 classrooms.

# Mission

Provide early education and therapy services for children who have special needs and typical needs in fully inclusive classrooms, so every child can reach their full potential.



# Services

- Early Education (Birth - 5)
- Early Intervention (Birth - 5)
  - Physical Therapy
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Speech Therapy
  - Special Instruction
- Before/After & Summer School (K-5th)

We lead the way in inclusive services in the community for children ages birth to 12 years old. Our services are provided both onsite and in-home, depending on the child's needs.



# Community Impact

Despite the many challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we managed to serve more children than ever before. In 2020, our team of teachers and therapists provided services to 276 children, a 37% increase from 2019. Of those children, 77 received in-home services. Our team of therapists provided 1,778 hours of therapy, a 3% increase from previous years. These increases were achieved despite briefly closing down our facility to implement pandemic protocols. Those protocols, which are still in place, were successful in keeping our doors open while maintaining a safe and inclusive space for children to learn and grow. Looking ahead to 2021, we anticipate serving more than 300 children and providing more than 2,000 hours of therapy services.

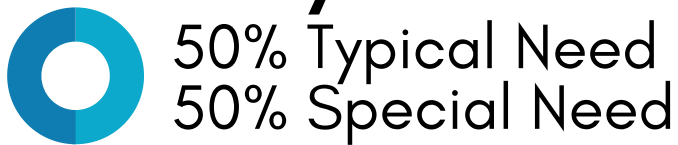
# 276

## Children Served

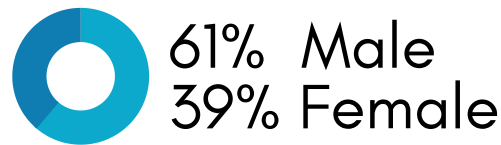
37% Increase from 2019



## Ability



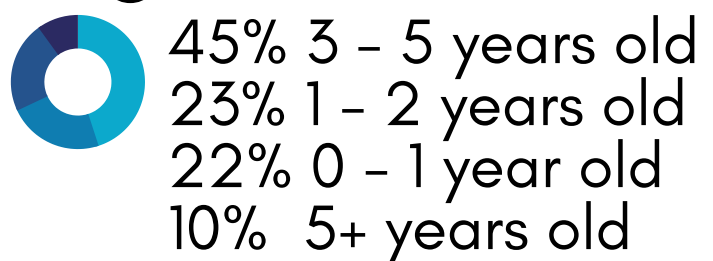
## Gender



## Residence



## Age





# Student Spotlight: Max

You'll have a hard time finding anyone who knows more about our school than



Max. He knows the name of every child enrolled onsite and in which classroom they belong. He also knows the name of every staff member and the car they drive. Max is an amazing 12 year old, and we're happy we've gotten to help him learn and grow for nearly 10 years.

Max was three years old when he enrolled after his previous preschool, "Basically kicked him out," his mother said. Max has autism, and needed a place that would accept him and adapt to his unique needs. When he aged out of the preschool program, his future was again uncertain. Once more, we were happy to create space for Max. We rearranged things and he joined the Before/After & Summer School program.

Since then, Max has walked through our doors almost every day bellowing his signature, "Hi!" His mother was right when she said, "Max knows everyone and everyone knows Max." His teachers take it further and said, "Max loves everyone and everyone loves Max."

# Alumnus Spotlight: Chase & Parker

For Chase and Parker, Northland Early Education Center is a family tradition. Chase, who has Downs Syndrome, enrolled in 1998 when she was three months old. Her parents, Jill and Thad, needed a place where their daughter could learn and get the therapy services she needed. Jill and Thad learned about NEEC from family friends, and were referred by Missouri First Steps, a program from the state to help children with special needs. While enrolled, Chase flourished in inclusive classrooms, while receiving Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapy. Several years later, in 2006, Chase's little brother, Parker, enrolled. Chase was just down the hall as Parker, who has typical needs, started in the very same classroom as his big sister.

Their parents had no doubt this was where they wanted their children to spend their earliest years learning and developing. They credit their time here for helping

create the amazing people they are today. Parker is a compassionate young man who makes it a point to befriend everyone, regardless of their background or ability, said Jill. Meanwhile, Chase is breaking down any challenge in her way and is gainfully employed. Chase and Parker's parents know when a child receives a strong start, anything is possible.







## Administrators

Executive Director: Brea Connett  
 Program Director: Natasha Lehman  
 Asst. Program Director: Tammy Dodd  
 Development Director: Sean Cunniff  
 Office Manager: Cindy Humbird



## 2021 Board of Directors

President: Amie Francois	Lisa Hurley
Vice President: Sandy Walker	Michelle Marriott
Treasurer: Matt Lyons	Sara Atchison
Secretary: Jeni Schrimsher	Stephanie Wiley
Jill Ashby	Tammy Butler



# Donors

## Capital Campaign

\$250,000

Sunderland Foundation

\$5,000

Ronald D. Deffenbaugh Foundation

## General Operations/COVID-19 Relief

\$20,000-\$55,000

Clay County DDRB

Kenneth & Roswitha Schaffer

\$10,000-\$19,999

United Way of Greater KC

Irven E. & NeVada P. Linscomb Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Oppenstein Brothers Foundation

R.A. Long Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

ARC of Clay & Platte Counties

Capitol Federal Foundation

Harry C. Arnote Charitable Foundation

JE Dunn Construction

Joel Mendoza (In-Kind)

Mary Elizabeth Martin Scholarship Trust

Mid-America Regional Council

Oppenstein Brothers Foundation

Summit Heating & Cooling

\$500-\$999

Cheryl Cavender

Jeff & Michelle Marriott

KidsGardening.org, Inc.

Marc & Mimi Comfort Foundation

Platte County Board of Services

Voyages By Jeni

\$100-\$499

Chicken N Pickle

Diana Lehman

HM Bowman

Jennifer Miles

Kansas City Gymnastics School

\$100-\$499 (cont.)

Kearney Trust Company

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Lauren Glenn

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Marc & Anita Siler

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Mary Schurtz

Mary Silverstein

Melissa White

Mitzi Cardenas

Northland Festivals, Inc.

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Pediatric Smiles Dentistry

Sara Atchison

Steven Andrews

United Way of Wyandotte County

\$99 and Under

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Allison Storm

Brea Connett

Cheryl Galloway

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Dennis Lehman

Emi Kay

Emma Stiles

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Gloria Young

Jamie Hernandez

Jamie McSparin

Jane Salisbury

Jill Celvenger-Bartlett

Joyce Tweedy

Karen Nyberg

Katherine Eitel

Katie Ruddick

Kevin Cummings

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Letty Storm

Lisa Eacret

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Sara Laird

Sarah Knopf-Amelung

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Shannon Anderson

Sheryl Godsy

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Stephanie Starr

Steven Dawdy

Tami Shirey

Tammy Cooper

Ted Stumpf

Tyler Defelice