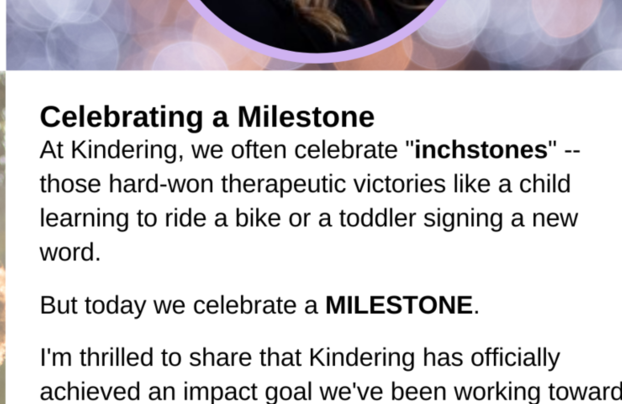
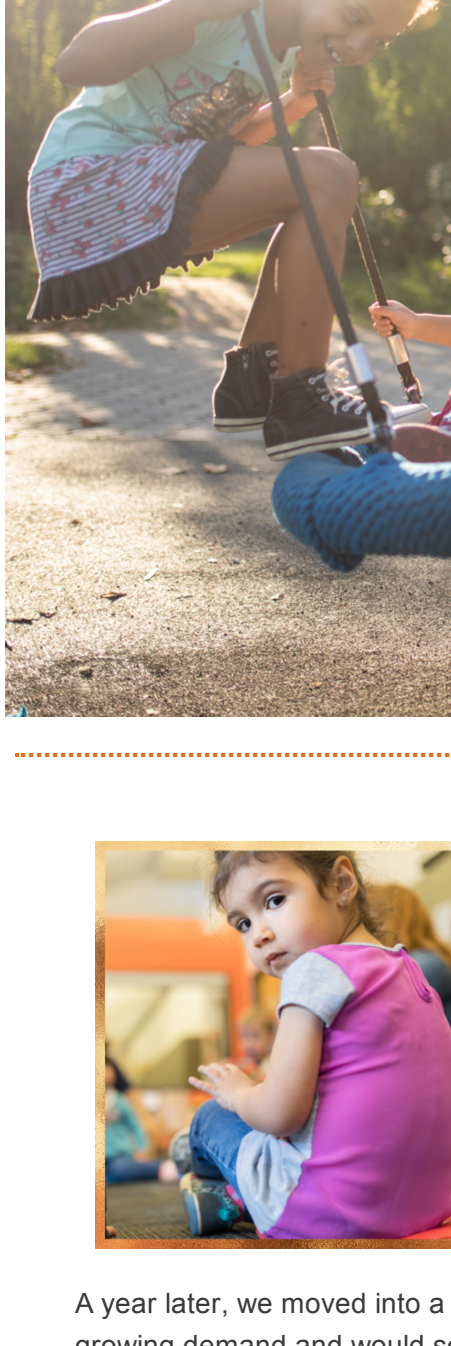


Line From Lisa



Celebrating a Milestone

At Kindering, we often celebrate "inchstones" -- those hard-won therapeutic victories like a child learning to ride a bike or a toddler signing a new word.

But today we celebrate a **MILESTONE**.

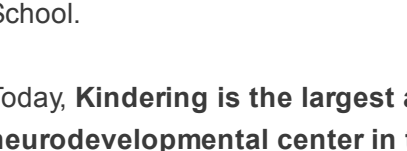
I'm thrilled to share that Kindering has officially achieved an impact goal we've been working toward for the past 5 years: reaching **10,000 children and families annually**.

With more demand than ever in our region for therapies and services, this milestone couldn't come at a better time. But we know there is much work yet to be done.

We will continue listening closely to the needs of our community, adapting our innovative programs, and thinking big as we invest in the bright futures of the children and families we are so proud to serve.

Thank you to all the families, advocates, and partners who have made our work possible all these years. We look forward to working hand in hand with you for decades to come!

Lisa
Lisa Greewald, PhD
CEO, Kindering



Looking Back on 60 Years of Service

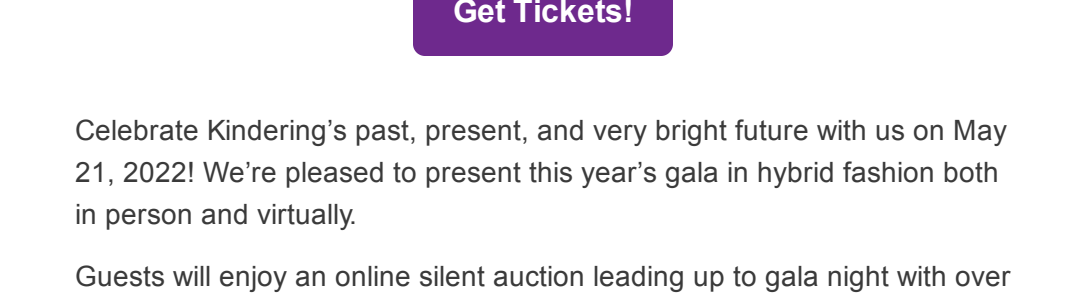
In 1962, five parents of children with special needs founded Kindering, operating strictly on a volunteer basis and utilizing private homes to provide supports.

A year later, we moved into a Bellevue School District classroom to meet growing demand and would soon become known as the Merrywood School.

Today, **Kindering is the largest and most comprehensive neurodevelopmental center in the Pacific Northwest**, proudly offering pediatric therapy, specialized early learning, and other family/caregiver supports at four campuses (Bellevue, Bothell, Renton, and Redmond) to thousands of children and families each year.

We're proud of how far we've come while staying true to our mission of providing children of every ability with the finest education and therapies to nurture hope, courage, and the skills to soar.

Join us in celebrating 60 years of excellence at our Anniversary Gala this May!



2022 Auction Gala

Saturday, May 21 | 6:00 pm

The Westin Seattle

Celebrating 60 Years of Kindering

Get Tickets!

Celebrate Kindering's past, present, and very bright future with us on May 21, 2022! We're pleased to present this year's gala in hybrid fashion both in person and virtually.

Guests will enjoy an online silent auction leading up to gala night with over 150 silent and cellar auction items!

Interested in learning more about the event or sponsorship opportunities? Please contact [Anne Acker](#).

Meet Mustapha

Kebbeh

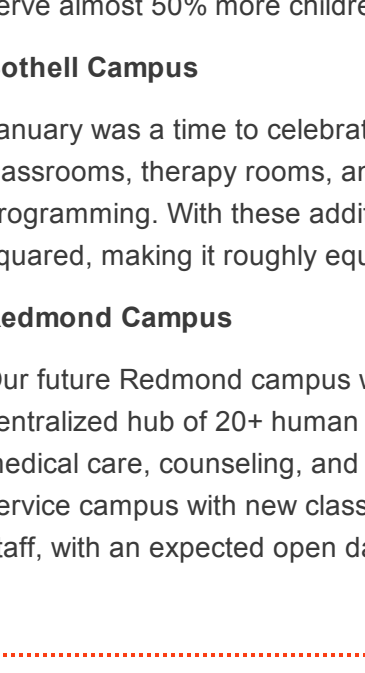
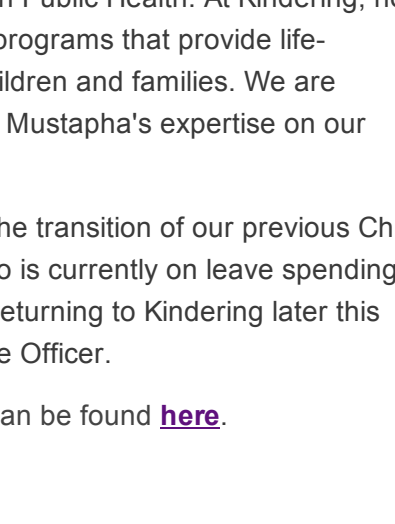
Kindering's Chief Program Officer

Since our last quarterly update, Kindering has hired a new member of our leadership team! We are thrilled to welcome Mustapha Kebbeh as our new Chief Program Officer.

Mustapha brings with him 15+ years of international program development experience, as well as a master's degree in Public Health. At Kindering, he oversees the strategic direction of our 23 programs that provide life-changing services and supports for our children and families. We are extremely fortunate to have someone with Mustapha's expertise on our team.

We hope you'll also join us in celebrating the transition of our previous Chief Program Officer, Jennifer Ajumogobia, who is currently on leave spending time with her baby boy Kenzo and will be returning to Kindering later this year in a new role as our Strategic Initiative Officer.

Kindering's current Programs & Services can be found [here](#).



Kindering Campus Expansions: Bothell & Redmond

As our region grows, so too does the need for more supports and services for children and their families! To support rising enrollment and to create more space for our expert staff, we are nimbly expanding our programs and our campus space.

We are delighted to be in the midst of two exciting campus expansion projects in Redmond and Bothell, where we hope to deepen our relationships with the communities we serve and better connect families with wraparound supports. With these two expansions, we will be able to serve almost 50% more children and families annually.

Bothell Campus

January was a time to celebrate as Kindering Bothell added beautiful new classrooms, therapy rooms, and staff space to expand existing programming. With these additions, Bothell will grow by 5,000 feet squared, making it roughly equal in size to our Bellevue campus.

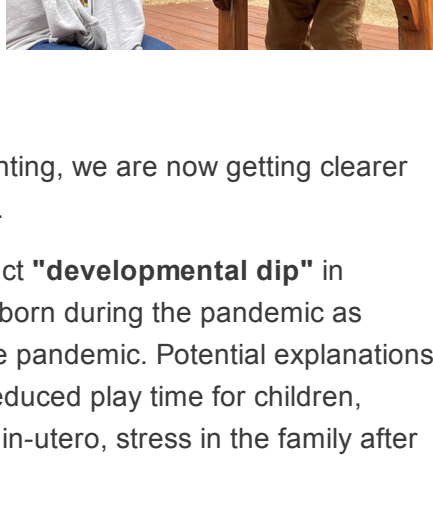
Redmond Campus

Our future Redmond campus will be nestled in the Together Center's centralized hub of 20+ human services agencies that provide shelter, medical care, counseling, and more. This new location will become a full-service campus with new classrooms and workspaces, as well as more staff, with an expected open date in 2023.

Although not every child experiences delays, the overall trend is well established and has broad impacts, affecting families who had the virus as well as those who did not. Even more worrisome, children in families who already face barriers to services, such as low-income families, had more pronounced delays than others.

In such an environment, it's especially important that families have access to the services and supports they need. At Kindering, we have carefully adapted our programs to mitigate the additional layer of stress brought on by the pandemic, engaging children and their families with virtual and hybrid services, increasing family-centered coaching, and connecting families with basic need supports. We recognize that for many of our families, now is an especially difficult time to take advantage of the services that will lead to lifelong improvements. Each family, Kindering staff ensure that access barriers are removed so all families can engage in our services.

To learn more about the impacts the pandemic is having on child development, read *Nature's* **[The COVID generation: how is the pandemic affecting kids' brains?](#)**



How is Covid Affecting Children?

The Case for More Services

We knew the pandemic was affecting childhood development. What we didn't know was how much.

Two years into the pandemic and counting, we are now getting clearer data -- and the results are concerning.

Several studies have identified a distinct "**developmental dip**" in cognitive development among infants born during the pandemic as compared with infants born prior to the pandemic. Potential explanations for pandemic-related delays include reduced play time for children, prenatal stress affecting development in-utero, stress in the family after the child is born, and more.

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Innovation at Kindering Bothell

Our Bothell staff recently launched new strategies for managing a co-op playgroup in a pandemic: move it outside!

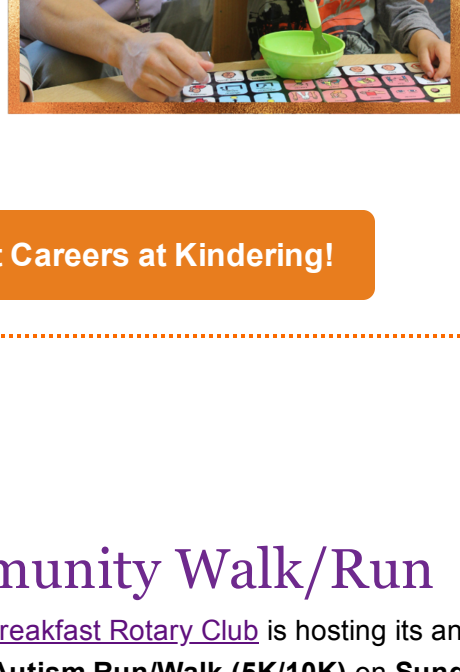
Bothell's family co-op class has moved their playgroup to a nearby park to minimize the potential for coronavirus spread during their sessions -- and they've been having a blast, rain or shine.

Kindering's co-op program, offered at several Kindering campuses, encourages healthy relationships between parents and children, promotes social development between children, and fosters a network of support among parents and caregivers. The Bothell playgroup's outdoor sessions have been so successful they plan to continue providing the program in that environment for the foreseeable future.

We're Hiring!

Do you love the work Kindering does? Do you have strong people skills, administrative skills, or technical skills?

We have a wide variety of opportunities at each of our four campuses right now, including direct service work, administrative roles, and more!



Learn More About Careers at Kindering!

Get Involved!



Community Walk/Run

Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club is hosting its annual **All In for Autism Run/Walk (5K/10K) on Sunday, April 24, 2022**. We're grateful that Kindering is again the primary beneficiary this year! Money raised from this community event helps fund ALL Kindering programs. This year's walk/run will be held **in person** on April 24 with a **virtual option** through

June 17.

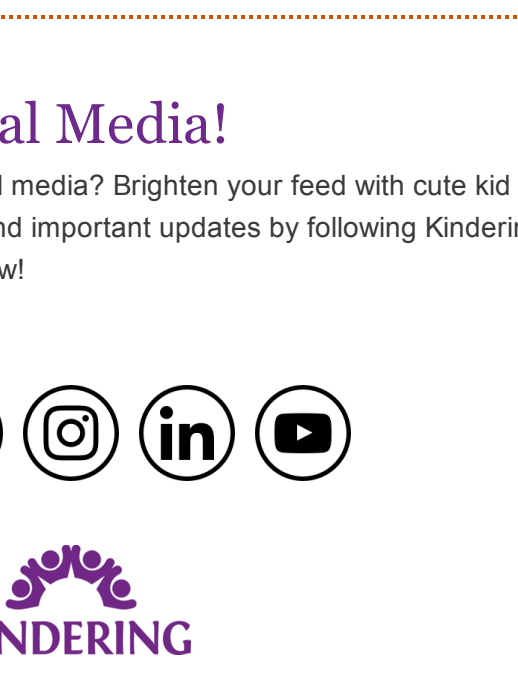
Interested in running or walking the 5K/10K? [Join Team Kindering!](#)

Volunteers are also needed on race day. Questions or interested in signing up as a volunteer with Kindering? Please contact [Anne Acker](#).

Click [HERE](#) to Join Team Kindering!

Support our Children & Families

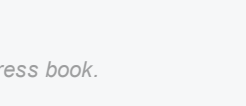
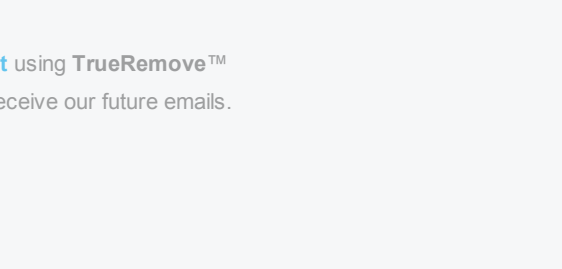
Honor a therapist. Celebrate a birthday. Make a gift in memory of a loved one. ANY time you support Kindering you help us meet the ever-changing needs of the children and families we serve. **Thank you!**



Donate

Follow us on Social Media!

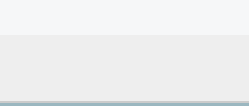
Don't follow Kindering yet on social media? Brighten your feed with cute kid pictures, inspiring family stories, and important updates by following Kindering on the social media platforms below!



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