



**Roger E. Lauer, Ph.D.,
Clinic Director**

**1955 Pauline Blvd, Suite 100A
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734.994.9466

CNLD.org

*developing unique minds
& impacting lives*

ABOUT CNLD

CNLD was founded over 20 years ago by Dr. Roger Lauer to serve Southeast Michigan and the greater Ann Arbor community by providing quality mental health care for children, adolescents, adults and families.

Our motto, *Developing Unique Minds and Impacting Lives*, speaks to our commitment to assist individuals in maximizing their potential and get on a track toward being the best version of themselves that they can be.

CNLD is best known for our expert clinical skills, commitment to providing thorough intervention plans (what needs to be done and in what order and specific professionals with whom to work) and follow-up to ensure that these plans are implemented effectively.

CLINIC HOURS

By appointment only
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

For more information about our services, please call **734.994.9466** or email **clients@cnld.org**

School Advocacy



**Roger E. Lauer, Ph.D.
and Associates**



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WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Advocacy is defined as “active verbal support for a cause or position.” It is a complicated process and your role is crucial to making sure your child receives the best educational plan.

Due to any number of circumstances, this task could be overwhelming: the parents don’t know what the law allows/expects; personalities between the family and school collide; the complexity of the child’s situation leaves everyone baffled.

Enter the services of an educational advocate, whose job it is to provide that active verbal support to assist with your child’s education. **Dr. Joanne Smith-Darden** is our clinic’s educational advocate who works with clients who have been tested by our doctors, so the continuity of our professional care is maintained.

WHAT ADVOCACY CAN DO FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Once your child has a diagnosis, what’s the next step? You can start working on strategies at home, but how do you know the most effective steps to take? And what happens at school? What if the school seems to be putting up barriers or doesn’t have the staff needed for assistance? How do you communicate your child’s needs during a meeting without getting more confused, frustrated or angry to the point of creating walls between the family and school?

Dr. Smith-Darden has participated in and directed hundreds of school meetings:

- Student Study Team meetings
- IEP’s
- Section 504 Plan meetings

Her work as an advocate has helped parents, students, teachers and administrators create meaningful educational as well as therapeutic objectives.



**DR. JOANNE SMITH-DARDEN,
MSW, CCC-SLP, PH.D**

Dr. Joanne Smith-Darden has a background in education, speech and language pathology, social work and developmental psychology.

As the parent of a special needs child and a special educator for over 30 years, Dr. Smith-Darden’s exceptional understanding of diverse special education needs is born from sitting at both sides of the table. Her experience in multiple domains is a valuable asset to the comprehensive service array we provide our clients.

Dr. Smith-Darden’s ability to take the recommendations from our assessments into the educational environment and construct meaningful and helpful goals and plans is invaluable for everyone – client, family and schools alike.