

**WELCOME MARYCLAIRE!**  
**Our new Social Worker**



Maryclaire Ahlgren will be joining Kids Unlimited Therapy Services, June of 2024. She started her career as a School Social Worker working with children aged 3-21. Her experience includes working with clients with various challenges and diagnoses, including Developmental Delays, Autism, ADHD, anxiety, learning disabilities, depression, oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), emotional disabilities (ED), and PTSD.

As a therapist, Maryclaire strives to empower her clients, not to fit into society's norms, but teach them to move in society in a way that best fits them. She believes in utilizing a strength-based approach to work with the client and their family to meet shared therapy goals. Maryclaire wants to understand her client in all their daily settings to develop an attainable treatment plan that can address past, current, and potential future challenges. Maryclaire has experience with individual sessions, group sessions, and family sessions with clients who have experienced challenges associated with grief, family conflict, peer relationships, domestic violence, sexual trauma, anger management, adjustments in family dynamics, minor and major life transitions, and suicidal/self-harm ideations. Maryclaire is a LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC supportive therapist!

**Social Workers Role at Kids Unlimited**

Social work considers a holistic view of the child and their surroundings, including physical, emotional, behavioral, and mental health aspects, instead of focusing solely on the current challenges. Social work at Kids Unlimited offers a unique opportunity for movement to be incorporated into treatment sessions allowing opportunities for regulation and healthy coping strategies. Understanding the child in all settings allows us to come up with a comprehensive treatment plan that addresses past, current, and future challenges to better the child as a whole. For example, a child may have a fear of red balloons. A social worker will start with finding the original memory of a red balloon and dive into the "why" behind the fear. While social workers can provide clients with coping skills alongside occupational therapists, social work can help find the deeper understanding for one's emotional responses and behavioral issues. This in turn can help a child understand their own reactions; therefore, empowering the child in a positive manner and seeing long lasting behavioral and emotional changes.

Social workers can work with not only their primary client, but their family, school personnel, extra-curricular instructors, and so forth. Social workers can provide their clients and their family with outside resources. For example, finding summer camps, a hairdresser/barber that takes children with sensory needs, or housing, food pantries, and clothing drives for the client's guardians. As stated by the International Federation of Social Workers, "Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people."

Please contact [carecoordinator@kutsllc.com](mailto:carecoordinator@kutsllc.com) to set up an introductory meeting to see if your child would benefit from Social Work at Kids Unlimited!