

### Translating an educational philosophy into a kid-friendly environment

**Location:** New York, New York

**Area:** 13,000 sf

**Budget:** \$1,400,000

**Completed:** 2004

North Carolina-based All Kinds of Minds, which assesses children with learning differences and trains teachers how to instruct them more effectively, enlisted Fradkin & McAlpin to develop its Manhattan flagship office. The space we designed reflects the organization's ideals of openness, understanding, transparency, and communication. A sweeping central "street" draws the kids in. An undulating transom in this curving space admits sunlight to the assessment rooms, adding whimsy. The glass walls of the clinicians' offices minimize the mystery of the process. The bright natural light and the vivid color scheme highlight the organization's optimism; the functional layout, intuitive circulation, and overall

design reflect All Kinds of Minds' cutting-edge, scientific approach to learning.

#### *Key details*

- > Captured the client's core values and translated them into the architectural design
- > Planned the layout to engineer informal interaction among staff, stimulating exchanges of ideas
- > Organized the design based on the children's and the families' experience
- > Orchestrated the team to deliver a completely renovated space on a tight schedule
- > Coordinated the finishes, furniture, and signage to achieve a harmonious whole

