

Safe kids Healthy kids Happy kids

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Preschool Screening Helps With Success In School

Developmental screenings help spot developmental delays or specific handicaps in children. These problems might affect their ability to learn. It is very important to find out if your child has a problem that might affect his success in school.

A child who has a special need would benefit from extra help during her preschool years. When it is time to start school, she will then have the same skills as other children her age. Without this help, your child may not be able to understand her teacher. She may not be able to do the schoolwork her teacher expects. This may lead to failure and the need for special help in school.

The screenings are like a check-up at a doctor's office. They are *learning checkups*. These check-ups are important. Your child will be tested in four different areas: motor, language, social and emotional. Hearing and vision tests are also a part of the testing. Parents

will be asked to share some information about your child. As a parent, you can help professionals spot any development problems.

All children 2½ to 5 years of age should take part in the *free*, preschool developmental screening process. The screening session will last about 20 to 40 minutes. The testing is fun for children. It is easy to understand. Parents will receive results before leaving the test site. They also take home specific ways to help their child's learning skills at home.

If necessary, some children may need extra services. Others may benefit from going to a preschool program.

Look in the community section (page 7) of this newsletter for list of preschool screening sites. You may also find information in the newspaper or on the radio. Phone numbers are listed if you have a question or want to call for an appointment.

Preschool screenings are a tool to help prepare your child for school success. Do not miss the chance to provide this help for your child. The earlier you catch the problem, the more time you have to correct the delay before age 5.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week.