



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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For Immediate Release

FREE PRESCHOOL VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan – May 7, 2008. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department will be conducting its annual hearing and vision screening clinics for children 3 ½ to 6 years old. These clinics will be provided during the summer months. The Health Department is requesting that parents, grandparents, or guardians of preschool children call NOW for an appointment for the FREE screening.

Michigan Law requires that children entering school be tested for hearing and vision problems prior to enrollment. In addition, health care professionals encourage young children to be screened to detect problems at an early age. School vision screening programs have demonstrated that too frequently children enter school with vision defects. Some serious defects cannot be corrected at school age while treatment in the preschool years can be highly successful. Preschoolers are tested for clearness of vision, muscle balance, and any obvious symptoms of eyesight problems. Five to ten percent of preschoolers screened may be referred to a professional eye care specialist for further examination.

Hearing loss is a common problem. A hearing problem can affect a child's behavior or performance in the classroom. Seven out of ten children need treatment for an ear problem before they reach the age of four. A child who has trouble hearing may hear you correctly at times, appear to ignore you at other times, or show signs of speech difficulty. Public health screening by a technician can identify hearing problems. Children showing hearing problems at the screening are then offered the opportunity to attend a free otology clinic to be examined by a medical ear specialist.

Please call the Health Department NOW for an appointment for your child's screening. In Dickinson County call (906) 774-1868 or in Iron County call (906) 265-9913.

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