



# Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

## Dickinson County

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***For Immediate Release***

## **FREE PRESCHOOL VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS**

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan – August 14, 2007. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department will be conducting its annual hearing and vision screening clinics for school-aged as well as preschool children at these upcoming clinics. Those who may have missed previous screenings and home-schooled students are welcome at this free screening. Clinics will be held on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> in Iron County and Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> in Dickinson County.

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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