



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
INDIAN STREAM HEALTH CENTER
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February 25, 2010

Indian Stream Health Center (ISHC) and the Board of Directors are pleased to announce a collaborating relationship with Northern Human Services (NHS) Family Centered Early Supports and Services (FCESS) and Infant Mental Health programs in the provision of FREE developmental screenings at the health center. The screenings are held once a month and are directed at children ages 18 to 24 months. However, any child between the ages of birth and five is eligible for this free service. If you are unable to access the health center directly, arrangements may be made for a home screening.

Developmental screenings are short, standardized assessments. Children are assessed for possible developmental delays as well as mental health and wellness concerns. These screenings are intended for early detection. If developmental delays and/or wellness issues are detected, the child can then be referred for a more comprehensive evaluation.

Developmental and behavioral problems can interfere with a child's ability to fit into and participate in the world around them. The sooner these delays in development are caught, the sooner intervention and treatment can be implemented.

Milestones are used to determine if a child's development is in line with their age. Some developmental milestones are a child's ability to express themselves with motions or sounds, be receptive to communication, social skills, and the basic aptitude of motor skills. The screenings help to determine if a child is meeting the expectations for social and emotional development for their age group.

ISHC is collaborating with NHS in provision of this service to our patient population. ISHC is passionate about meeting the needs of children in the community. The screening is open to all children birth to age five. Ginny Petro, ISHC's Outreach Coordinator said, "This program is a useful screening tool for all children and their families. We have many healthy, active children come in that are completely in line with their developmental requirements. This service just highlights that and gives parents an idea of where their children are developmentally."

If you are a patient of ISHC and have any questions regarding the developmental screenings, please contact Ginny Petro, 603-388-2414. If you are interested in scheduling a home screening please contact Sally Fiore at 978-314-2283.