



OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center Offering Free Child Development Screenings

For immediate release

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(February 5, 2018 | Alton, IL) – As they grow, kids are expected to hit certain developmental milestones, from taking a first step, to properly holding a pencil. Children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, act and move. However, for some kids, these developmental markers don't come easily.

When a child falls behind on basic milestones, it can be confusing and worrisome for parents. But it could be a combination of factors that lead to the lag.

"The reason for not reaching a milestone can be wide ranging," said Jenna Falk, a Speech Pathologist at OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center. "It can range from hearing impairment and illness, to a child's lack of exposure to experiences. Delays can also be caused by genetic or chromosomal issues, complications at birth, or prematurity."

At OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Health Center, therapists are offering a unique screening for kids ages three to five years old. The free child development screenings involve parent questionnaires, and therapists will address and concerns the parent has. The OSF HealthCare screener also observes the child's speech, language, fine motor, and gross motor abilities to make an assessment appropriate for the child's age. Each screening takes about 30-45 minutes.

"There are different reasons a child may not be meeting the normal developmental stages, and the Pediatric Therapists can inform the parent if there is need for more follow-up," said Frances Young, Manager, OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center Rehabilitation Services. "Our experienced Pediatric Therapists can recommend therapy if necessary, which can help the child to work on the delays in motor and speaking skills."

The free screenings will be offered by OSF Rehabilitation at OSF HealthCare Saint Clare's Medical Office Building, 815 E. 5th St., First Floor Auditorium A (1st Floor), Alton. The screenings will be held by appointment on Wednesdays, beginning February 14th, 9 a.m. to noon.

Additional screening dates are March 14th, 2 to 5 p.m., and April 11th, 9 a.m. to Noon. Appointments are required, and you can pre-register for your child's appointment at www.osfsaintanthonys.org.

For more information about this or other pediatric services offered by OSF Rehabilitation, call (618) 463-5171.