

Peoria County



Official News Release

For immediate release
December 7, 2009 (19)

Peoria County Administration
6056

Contact:
309-672-

Link to this news release: <http://www.peoriacounty.org>

Local Agencies Offer Developmental Screenings

Peoria - Several local agencies offer free developmental screenings or “learning check-ups” throughout the year for children ages 0 - 5. These screenings provide important information about a child's development and help parents understand what their child can do now and what they can expect of their child in the future. Experts recommend children have three developmental screenings during their first year, two during their second year, and then annually until age 5.

Parents and guardians may call one of the local agencies below for dates, locations, and information on free developmental screenings in their area:

Local Interagency Council #16

Serving Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties
Children ages 0 - 3
(309) 999-7030

Local Interagency Council #45

Serving Henry and Stark Counties
Children ages 0 - 3
(309) 999-7030

Peoria County

SEAPCO
Children ages 3-5
(309) 697-0880

Tazewell County

Contact your local school district
Children ages 3-5

Peoria District 150

Children ages 0 - 5
(309) 672-6720

Woodford County

Bright Beginnings
Children ages 3-5
(309) 367-4903

When conducting a developmental screening, each agency looks for certain developmental milestones appropriate for the child's age. It is important to remember that every child is unique and differences between children of the same age are not uncommon. But for one child out of ten, a difference in development may signal the need for further assessment, referrals to which are provided by the screening agency.

Common developmental milestones include:

By age 2 months, most children: Hold head erect (bobbing when supported in sitting position), roll part way to side, briefly watch objects, occasionally imitate or respond to a smiling person, make sounds of discomfort.

By 4 months, most children: Lift head and chest when lying on stomach; take an object held near their hands; follow a moving person with their eyes; enjoy play, laugh aloud, and smile; vocalize when talked to.

By 6 months, most children: Sit with minimal support, roll over, turn and look at sounds, reach out for objects.

By 9 months, most children: Sit alone and change positions, transfer objects from hand to hand, respond to their name and familiar people, say “mama” and “dada”, eat and swallow without difficulty.

By 12 months, most children: Pull themselves to standing and may step with support, pick things up with thumb and one finger, can nod their head to signal “yes”, vocalize and make their voice go up and down.

By 15 months, most children: Walk without support, do some self-feeding, drink from a cup held by someone, use four or five words.

By 18 months, most children: Walk (may run a bit), climb up or down one stair, mark on paper with crayons, use five to ten words, understand simple directions.

By 2 years, most children: Give toys on request, kick large ball, turn pages in a book (two or three at a time), ask for items by name, use two or three words together.

By 3 years, most children: Walk up stairs holding railing, stand momentarily on one foot, open doors, unbutton large buttons, stack objects graduated in size.

For more information on developmental screenings and early childhood development, please call Lynn Geier at Peoria County's Care & Treatment Board, (309) 999-7007.

#

Peoria County Courthouse, 324 Main Street, Room 502, Peoria, Illinois 61602