

Pediatric Development Clinic to open in November

The need for developmental services for children was identified by the District Health Council for York Region in 1996. Markham Stouffville Hospital, in keeping with its goal to provide comprehensive services to its community made funds available to help meet these needs.

Already servicing children with speech and language delays, it was determined that an expansion of services was required to assist York Region families in answering questions about their child's development including things like motor skills, visual-perceptual skills, cognitive and social skills as



Partners in Wellness

well as behavioural problems. The Paediatric Development Clinic will open its doors in November.

The program consists of two parts.

The first, an assessment clinic, utilizes a team of health care professionals that specialize in child development. This team consists of a speech and language pathologist, psychologist, social worker and occupational therapist. A developmental

pediatrician is also available for consultation.

This clinic is available to any family residing in York Region whose child is between 18 months and six years or prior to Grade 1 entry and is demonstrating delays in development. The goal of the clinic is to provide families with a comprehensive assessment of their child and together with them gain an understanding of how each child functions. With that

understanding, we can set forth a plan to help with further development.

The second part of the program is a treatment program. The treatment program, in partnership with Family Day Daycare Centre, is located in Parkland Public School.

Following the format of a nursery school program, it integrates special needs children into regular daycare classes. The children are supported in the program on a daily basis by ECE resource teachers and a Communicative Disorders Assistant as well as the Parkland Family Day Staff.

Direct therapy is provided by the speech and language pathologist, social worker, psychologist and occupational therapist at the centre. Referral to the treatment program is through the assessment clinic and is available to children residing in the Markham

Stouffville area. The objective of the treatment program is to help children develop the skills necessary to successfully be integrated into a community nursery school or local school.

In addition, the clinic offers parent/caregiver support groups, parent education workshops and consultation to schools and other community agencies.

On Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the auditorium at Markham Stouffville Hospital, we will celebrate the grand opening of this special clinic.

The community is invited to share in this celebration. Come out and meet the staff, share ideas and refreshments and learn more about this very valuable paediatric service. For more information, and to RSVP please call Laurie at 472-7534.

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