



Early care makes a difference.

# Early Mental Health Screening

Early mental health (EMH) screenings help children build healthy futures.

## Who is eligible?

- St. Louis County children in the custody of Missouri DSS-Children's Division.
- These children must be case managed by St. Louis County Children's Division or SAINT LOUIS PARTNERS.
- Preference is for screenings scheduled early in a child's case (children initially entering the child welfare system, or recently entered) but exceptions may be made.
- Ages 2 yrs, 6 months - 18 years old

## What does the screening consist of?

- An assessment helps identify behavioral, emotional, developmental and mental health concerns *early*— so concerns don't multiply and grow more serious.
- Consists of clinical interviews with the child and primary caretakers and case manager.
- If possible, the assessment includes clinical interviews with the biological parents of the child.
- Includes self-report and behavioral rating forms by caretakers/teachers.
- Includes symptom checklists and observations.
- Includes brief testing devices.

## ASSESSMENT PHILOSOPHY

"No child is an island". Children exist in larger social systems – family, school, and community. Learning about their experiences, difficulties and challenges requires cooperation and collaboration with all those involved in a child's life—with most recent caretakers, parents and case managers. In order for assessment and screenings to be most beneficial, participation by adults in the lives of the children is expected and required. **Together we can help children build healthy futures.**

This service is paid for by a St. Louis County Children's Services Fund grant.



## What NOT to expect from EMH screenings:

- Early screenings do not represent comprehensive psychological evaluations.
- Do not expect that a valid screening can take place by seeing only the child. The cooperation and collaboration of the adults in a child's life (foster parent, teachers, and case managers) are critical.
- "Dropping off" the child at Keystone is not allowed. Attendance by the case manager, foster parent, or biological parent is required.
- Child-care is not provided at Keystone for siblings or other children not involved in the screening appointment. Please do not bring other children to the appointment.
- Do not expect forensic evaluations or forensic recommendations. Do not expect decision-making, such as custody or placement determinations, or visitation determinations.

## Expectations of caseworkers involved in the case:

1. Initiation of referral of the case to Keystone by calling (314) 533-2229 x275 and stating that this is a "Kids First Funding" referral.
2. Completion of a one-page referral form and three background questions.
3. Assistance in gaining the cooperation of care-giving collaborators to participate in clinical interviews and to return rating forms
4. Scheduling a 4-hour in-office appointment at Keystone offices.
5. Accompanying the child or arranging with the foster parent or biological parent to accompany the child to the appointment.

## What you MAY expect from EMH screenings:

- Mental health screening conducted by a qualified licensed psychologist;
- You will receive a timely appointment.
- A written screening report that contains easy-to-understand recommendations for "next steps" in addressing identified mental health, behavioral health and developmental concerns;
- And, you can expect the satisfaction of knowing that you have accessed the best possible start to your new case, for the benefit of the child and their family!*

caring for children mind, body & soul.



# early care makes a difference.

Our Little Haven's early intervention approach to care for children makes all the difference in their lives. Early care helps children build healthy futures.

Each child's challenges are different, but through comprehensive professional care, children who have had a rough start can function better and live healthier lives. Early care can turn tears to smiles, and give them back their childhood.

Early mental health screening helps children build healthy futures.



## Outpatient Mental Health Services

- Psychological Evaluations
- Early Mental Health Screening
- Parenting Assessments
- Bonding Assessments
- Individual & Family Therapy
- Behavior Management Strategies
- Psychiatric Consultation
- Community Consultation
- Parenting Groups (group parent learning and treatment)

Our Little Haven also provides therapeutic preschool/day treatment and residential treatment.

Please call for more information or to set up an appointment. Openings are available with our licensed psychologists and licensed clinical care team. Phone (314) 533-2229, x275.

Keystone and Keystone Early Mental Health Screening receive funds from:

St. Louis County  Children's Service Fund  
*Keeping Kids First*

Caring for Children. Mind. Body. Soul.



4330 Lindell Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
Phone: 314-533-2229 x275

Our Little Haven

Keystone  
Early Mental Health Screening

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