

Childhood Lead Poisoning

Reduce the Risks for Children in Early Care Environments



HELP PROTECT CHILDREN



Lead is all around!

Common sources of lead exposure to children:

- Buildings (including homes) built before 1978 are the most common source of lead exposure in Iowa from:
 - Peeling lead-base paint and lead in dust in soil
 - Renovations/repairs and remodeling of buildings built before 1978
- Old toys and imported jewelry
- ♦ Take home lead (if parent is exposed to lead at a job or hobby) See back for jobs/hobbies examples
- ♦ Candies from other countries/home remedies
- ♦ Water (lead pipes)
- Chewing or eating non food items like paint chips, dirt, window frames, jewelry, keys, or other metal or painted objects
- Pottery, Health Remedies and Spices (especially turmeric, chili, paprika and cumin) that are imported from outside of US or purchased from international specialty stores
- ♦ Some Traditional folk medicine

Understanding Lead Poisoning

- Lead exposure at even lower levels has been shown to cause harm as children are highly sensitive to lead. It is important to test young children for lead poisoning.
- Children with very high lead levels can suffer from irreversible health impacts and in rare cases even death.
- Young children under age 4 are most at risk for lead poisoning due to development milestones such as hand to mouth activity and their bodies absorb lead more quickly than adults.
- ♦ Lead Poisoning symptoms may include:
 - Being easily excited
 - Problems paying attention
 - Having stomach aches/headaches
 - Being more tired than usual
- Buildings built before 1978 probably contain lead based paints. It is important to check to see if your child care building has lead based paint.



Photo credit: IDPH Lead Program

Lead testing is the only way to know if a child is lead poisoned.

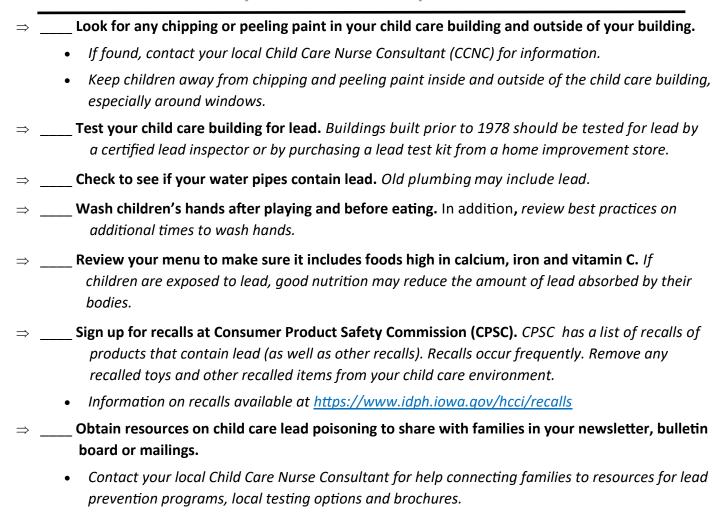
Most lead poisoned children do not look ill. A simple finger prick to collect the blood sample can be done by a health care provider.

FACT

Blood Lead testing is <u>required</u> in lowa before starting kindergarten.

To Do Checklist

Help To Decrease Children's Exposure to Lead



Did you know?

Here are some examples of jobs and hobbies that may be exposed to lead:

- Manufacturing (auto or industrial equipment part or battery)
- Metal repair or recycling (scrap metal, electronics, vehicle radiators)
- Firearms (target practice, indoor/outdoor shooting ranges, ammunition (making, casting or reloading)
- Fishing (making lead sinkers)
- * Antique Furniture (refinishing)
- * Pottery making or glazing
- Metal Welding

For further information contact:

IDPH lead program call 800-972-2026

Visit the website at:

https://idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/ Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention

Healthy Child Care Iowa call 800-369-2229

Visit the website to find your local CCNC at:

https://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants

References:

https://idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-05/documents/what you need to know about lead poisoning.pdf

https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/faqs/lead-faqs.htm