



Say NO to Lead!

Get your child tested for lead today!

Did you know?

Medicaid enrolled children are required to have a lead screen at 12 and 24 months! Please make sure you get your child's screening done before the age of two!

Just a small amount of lead can hurt your child's growth and IQ!

How does lead make children sick?

Lead can damage many organs, especially the nervous system, brain, and kidneys. It can interfere with normal brain development, causing reduced IQ, learning disabilities, behavior problems, reading problems, headaches, irritability, persistent tiredness or hyperactivity and constipation. **This damage is permanent!** At very high levels lead can cause seizures, coma, and even death.

How do children get lead in their bodies?

- ✓ **Eating paint flakes** - Children can put things in their mouths that have paint flakes or paint dust on them.
- ✓ **Playing in dirt** - Some dirt may have lead in it.
- ✓ **Using water from old pipes** - This includes drinking, cooking with, or mixing baby formula with hot water.
- ✓ **Putting painted toys in their mouth** or playing on old playground equipment

What can parents do?

The good news is that parents can help children be lead-free!

1. Remove any known lead-based products from the home.
2. Be sure to keep children away from chipping paint.
3. If you rent a home or apartment, talk with your landlord about fixing peeling paint.
4. Keep your home clean and dust free
5. Wash child's hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys frequently
6. Ensure well balanced meals - Children with healthy diets absorb less lead.