



Child Care and Lead Poisoning Prevention



Why is lead exposure dangerous for young children?



Exposure to lead in young children can cause:



- Damage to the brain and nervous system

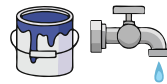


- Learning, attention, and behavior problems



- Hearing and speech problems
- Slowed growth and development

What are the most common sources of lead?



- Flaking and peeling lead-based paint



- Water from lead pipes
- Imported toys and candies



- Soil



- Certain ceramics and pottery
- Traditional medicines and cosmetics

How can I protect the children in my care from lead exposure?

Clean

- Wash all toys often
- Clean countertops, tables, food preparation areas daily
- Wet wipe and wet mop floors, windowsills, and baseboards weekly



Educate

- Educate parents about lead
- Encourage parents to get their children tested for lead in their blood
- Encourage good nutrition
- Show children how to wash their hands well



Inspect

- Check often for chipping and peeling paint
- Move cribs and furniture away from any possible sources of lead
- Have your water tested for lead.
- Have the paint and soil in and around your facility tested for lead by a certified lead inspector.



The only sure way to know that a child has been exposed to lead is with a blood lead test. Encourage parents to talk to their health care providers about blood lead testing.

Learn more at vdh.virginia.gov/leadsafe