

# Why Should My Child Get a

## Blood Lead Test?

**1. Lead is very dangerous for young children.** It can cause:

- Damage to the brain and nervous system
- Slowed growth and development
- Learning and behavior problems
- Hearing and speech problems

**2. Virginia has many older homes.** This means your child(ren) might have been exposed to lead through lead paint, soil, water, or other household sources.

**3. Most of the time, children exposed to lead will not show any symptoms that they are sick.** The only way to know if they have been exposed is if they get a blood lead test.

**4. Young children often put non-food items, such as toys, in their mouths.** This increases their risk of getting lead in their body.



Children at risk for lead exposure should get a blood lead test at 12 and 24 months. Talk to your health care provider about blood lead testing for your kids.



Learn more:  
[www.vdh.virginia.gov/leadsafe/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/leadsafe/)

