Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning

Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health.

Damage to the brain and nervous system

Slowed growth and development

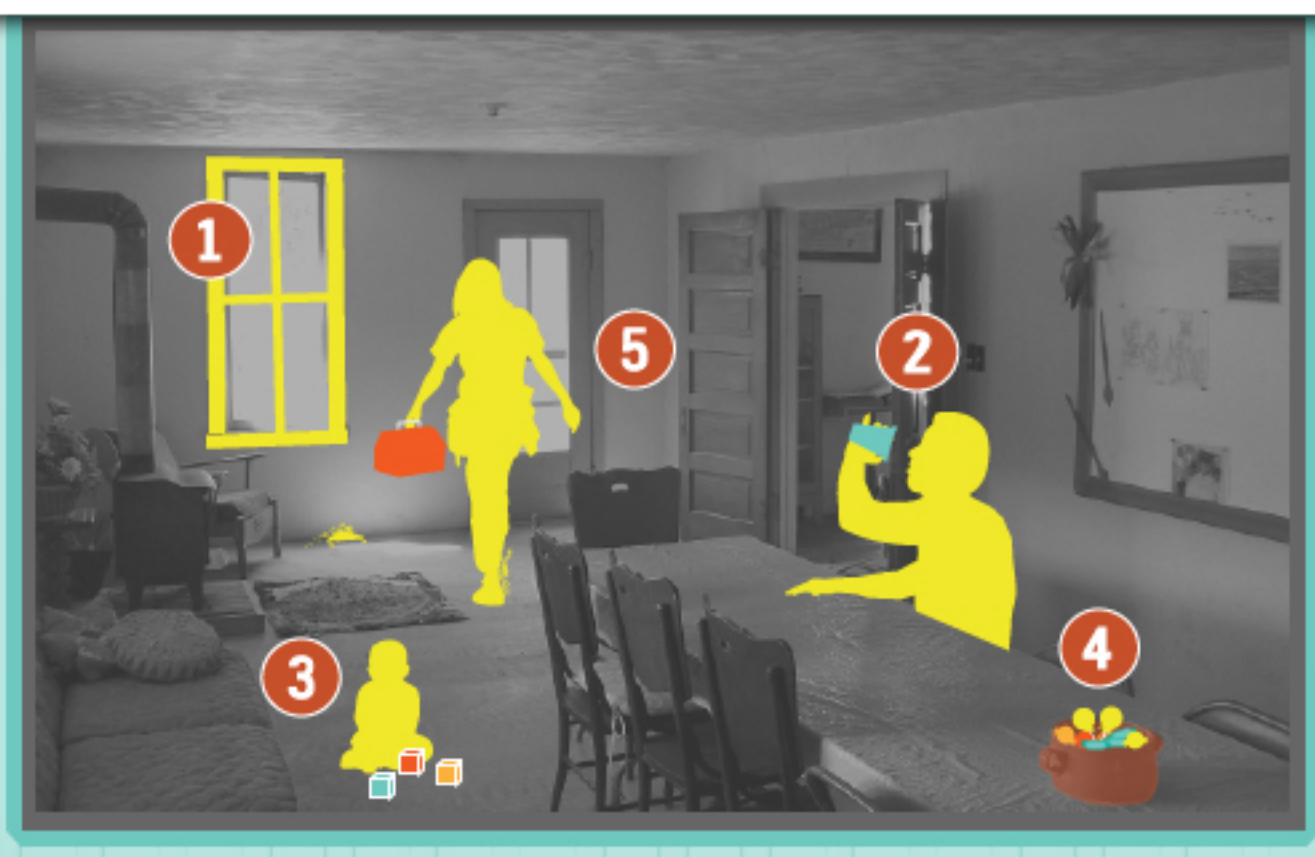
Learning and behavior problems

Hearing and speech problems

This can cause:

- **Lower IQ**
- **Decreased ability to pay attention**
- **Underperformance at school**

Lead can be found throughout a child's environment.



1 Homes built before 1978 (when lead-based paints were banned) probably contain lead-based paint.

When the paint peels and cracks, it makes lead dust. Children can be poisoned when they swallow or breathe in lead dust.

2 Certain water pipes may contain lead.

3 Lead can be found in some products such as toys and toy jewelry.

4 Lead is sometimes in candies imported from other countries or traditional home remedies.

5 Certain jobs and hobbies involve working with lead-based products, like stain glass work, and may cause parents to bring lead into the home.

The Impact

535,000

U. S. children ages 1 to 5 years have blood lead levels high enough to damage their health.

24 MILLION

homes in the U.S. contain deteriorated lead-based paint and elevated levels of lead-contaminated house dust.

4 MILLION of these are home to young children.

It can cost

$5,600

in medical and special education costs for each seriously lead-poisoned child.

The good news:

Lead poisoning is 100% preventable.

Take these steps to make your home lead-safe.

Talk with your child's doctor about a simple blood lead test. If you are pregnant or nursing, talk with your doctor about exposure to sources of lead.

Talk with your local health department about **testing paint and dust in your home for lead** if you live in a home built before 1978.

Renovate safely. Common renovation activities (like sanding, cutting, replacing windows, and more) can create hazardous lead dust. If you're planning renovations, use contractors certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (visit www.epa.gov/lead for information).

Remove recalled toys and toy jewelry from children and discard as appropriate. Stay up-to-date on current recalls by visiting the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website: www.cpsc.gov.

CDC

Visit www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead to learn more.