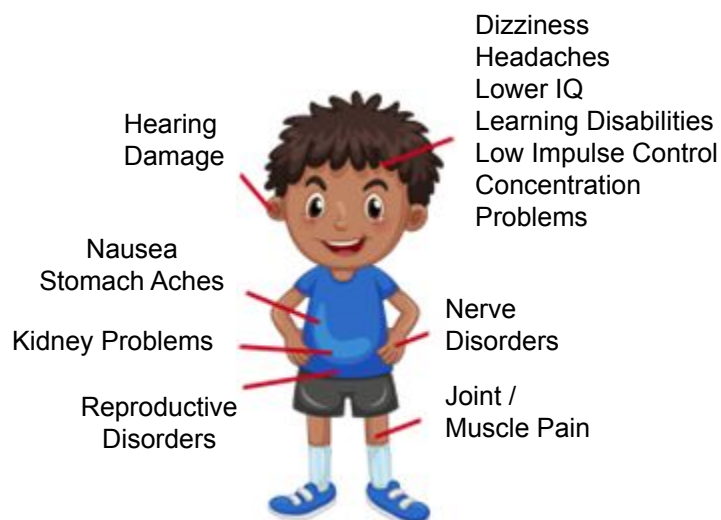


Lead is Toxic

What Delaware families, medical staff, educators, child care staff, and community service providers need to know about childhood lead poisoning:

Lead exposure causes lifelong cognitive, learning, behavioral, and health problems. Young children are at the highest risk!



Lead Screening: it's the law!

Screening is required for all children at 12 months of age, and again at 24 months of age, regardless of risk factors.

Screening is defined as a capillary fingerstick in a doctor's office, or a venous blood test at a laboratory; screening is not a questionnaire.

All child cares and public schools require proof of screening at 12 and 24 months of age for enrollment.

Where is lead?

Children can be exposed to lead from peeling paint, contaminated soil, drinking water (pipes/solder), vintage dinnerware as recent as 2005, baby food, apple juice, applesauce, spices, makeup, jewelry, toys, supplements, and more.

What to do if your child has an elevated blood lead level:

Blood lead levels **3.5 µg/dL or higher** are considered "elevated" by the CDC and require action.

1. Identify and remove the source of exposure.
2. Talk to your child's doctor right away to determine if medical treatment is necessary.
3. Feed children healthy, low-fat foods high in iron, calcium, and vitamin C, which helps prevent lead from being absorbed.
4. Early education can help overcome the cognitive effects of lead poisoning.

Children birth to age 3 with a blood lead level **5 µg/dL or higher** are automatically eligible for early intervention services. **Contact Child**

Development Watch:

Kent and Sussex County: 800-752-9393

New Castle County: 800-671-0050

<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/birthtothree/>

Children with a blood lead level **10 µg/dL or higher** will receive a home visit by a health coordinator and a lead hazard risk assessment by the Department of Public Health.

How To Avoid Lead Exposure:

- Before buying, renting, or renovating your home, have it tested for lead.
- Frequently wash children's hands, pacifiers, bottles, and toys that children put in their mouths.
- Prevent children from chewing on keys, jewelry, and other metal items.
- Remove shoes or clean soil off of shoes before entering your home.
- Regularly clean floors, windowsills, and other household surfaces.

Request Birth-Three Early Intervention Services
800-752-9393 (Kent/Sussex Co)
800-671-0050 (New Castle Co)

Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
302-744-4546

The sooner a child exposed to lead receives intervention and medical services, the better the outcomes for the child.