



Lead Poisoning in Children

Spring, 2010

Children can be exposed to lead in soil by putting their hands or toys in their mouths. Other ways children can get lead poisoning are by eating or drinking from imported lead-glazed pottery, eating Mexican candy such as Lucan Limon and Vergo Mango, or from putting jewelry made from lead in their mouths. Many houses built before 1978 have lead-based paint. The paint may chip and flake and be ground into tiny bits. These bits of lead become part of the dust and soil in and around our homes. Children can get dust and soil into their bodies because they are likely to put their hands or toys in their mouths. When too much lead builds up in the children's bodies, they can get sick even though they may not look or act sick.

Most children show no symptoms of lead poisoning. Signs of lead poisoning can often be mistaken for other illnesses.



Symptoms of lead poisoning, if they occur, are

- Tiredness or restlessness
- Headache
- Stomach ache or vomiting
- Constipation
- Irritability



Lead poisoning can lead to

- Learning problems
- Behavioral problems
- Hearing problems
- Lower IQ
- Kidney damage

Children who do not have lead poisoning may also show some of these symptoms from time to time. Many of the symptoms of lead poisoning may also be caused by other health conditions or by learning and behavior problems.



If you have questions about lead call your doctor or health care provider.

Contact us for more information:

**Hamilton County
Department of
Health**

423-209-8000

**Tennessee
Department of
Health**

615-532-8462

This fact sheet is provided by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.



Get your child tested for lead poisoning today!

Most lead poisoned children do not act or look sick.

The only way to know if your child has lead poisoning is to have a blood lead test.

Children 6 years and younger are more likely to have lead poisoning.

Call your doctor or clinic today to get your child tested.