

Myths & Facts About Lead Poisoning

Myth: Lead poisoning is an inner city problem.

Fact- Children from all geographic areas, rural and urban are at risk.

Myth: If a child has lead poisoning, he will act sick.

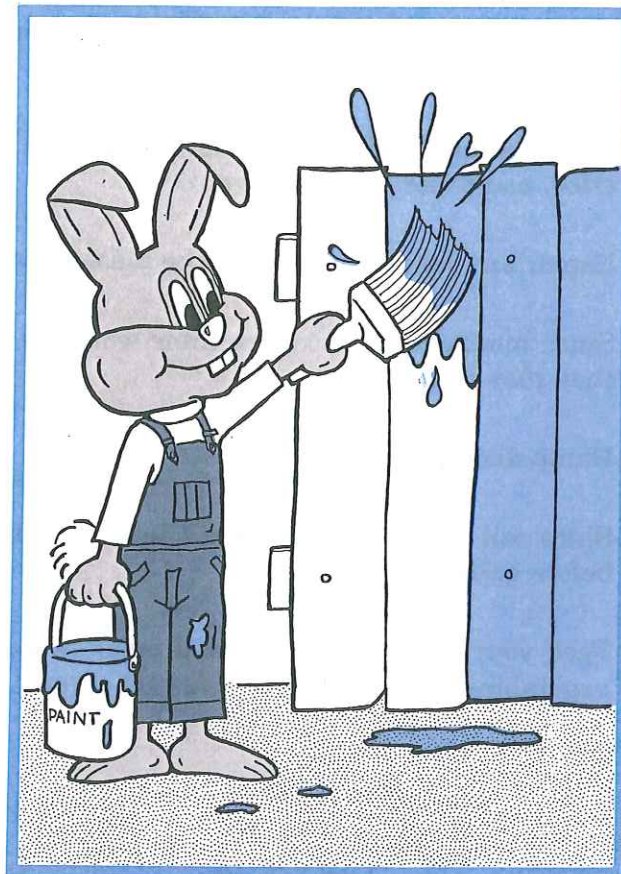
Fact- Most children with lead poisoning do not act sick.

Myth: Lead poisoning has no long lasting effects.

Fact- Lead poisoning causes behavior changes, hearing loss, and learning disabilities.

Myth: A large amount of blood is needed for the lead poisoning test.

Fact- The lead poisoning test is a simple finger stick in which a small amount of blood is sent to a laboratory. This test can be done at the doctor's office, health department or hospital clinic.



Myth: Lead poisoning is no longer a problem since lead has been removed from gasoline.

Fact- Lead is found in many other places or objects, such as painted surfaces, dirt, dust, industrial air pollution, colored newsprint, pottery, and water.

Myth: Lead poisoning is a problem only with people who work in lead industries.

Fact- Children under the age of six years are the main ones who are poisoned by lead.

Prevent Lead Poisoning

- See your doctor yearly and ask for a lead test for your child ages six months to six years.
- If you have any peeling or flaking paint in your house, contact your local health department to have it checked.
- Do not allow your child to chew or suck on painted surfaces such as woodwork, porches, old toys, cribs, and other old furniture.
- Repair any holes or cracks in the plaster walls and repaint them with lead free paint.
- Since most children explore their world by putting things in their mouths, keep the area where they play clean.
- Damp dust and damp mop.
- Since soil and dust can contain lead, it is important for children and adults to wash their hands before eating.
- Feed your family well balanced meals which include the following: meats, dairy products, fruits, vegetables and enriched breads and cereals.



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