

## Handout 2 - Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning (CDC)

# 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

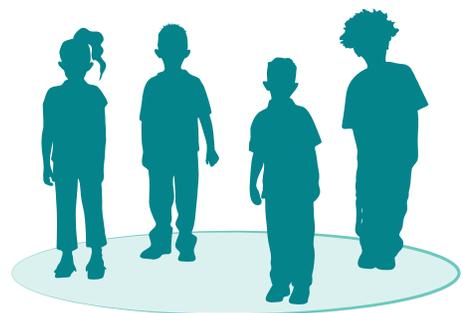
**This can cause:**



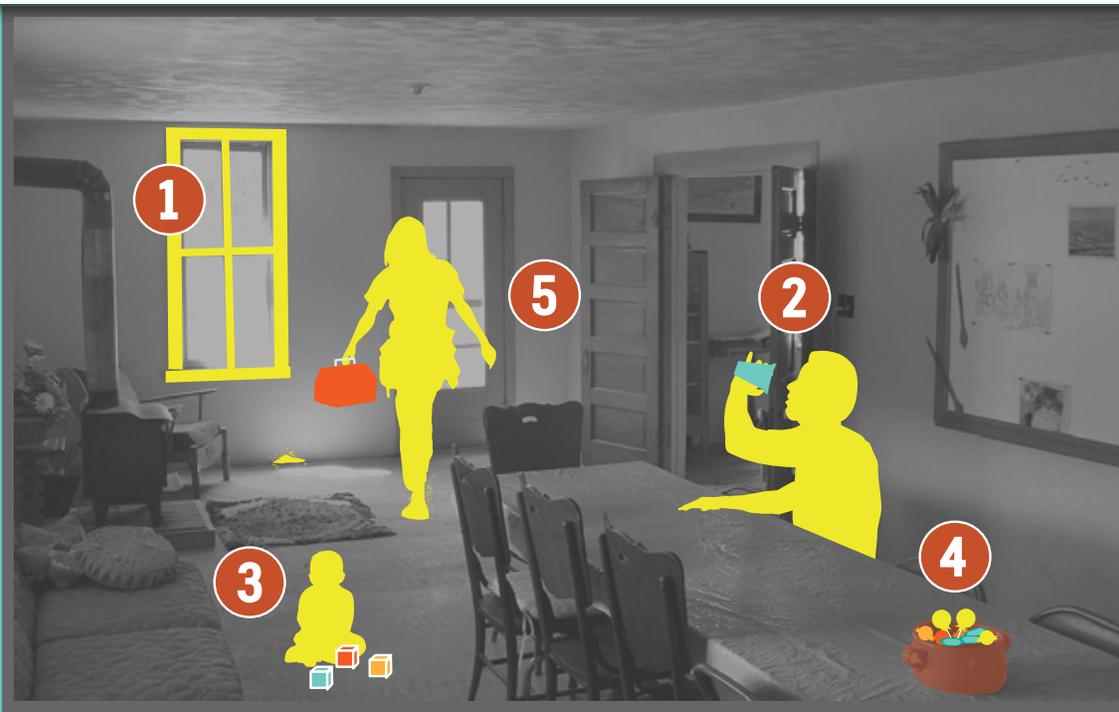
Lower IQ

Decreased ability to pay attention

Underperformance in 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](http://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](http://www.cpsc.gov).