IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING RISK QUESTIONNAIRE

Date_____

Name_____

Address_____

Date of Birth_____

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes", the child is considered to be at high risk for lead poisoning and must be screened according to the high-risk screening schedule. If the parent does not know the answer to a question, the answer should be assumed "yes". This questionnaire should be reviewed at each regular visit. Write additional dates that the questionnaire is reviewed in the blank for "date" and note any changes to the answers.

1. Has your child ever lived in or regularly visited a house built before 1960? Yes No

2. Have you noticed any peeling or chipping paint in or around the pre-1960 house that your child has lived in or regularly visited? Yes No

3. Is the pre-1960 home that your child has lived in or regularly visited been remodeled or renovated by: Yes No
   A. Stripping, sanding or scraping paint on the inside or outside of the house.
   B. Removing walls and/or tearing out lath or plaster.

4. Does your child eat non-food items such as dirt? Yes No

5. Have any of your other children or their playmates had lead levels > =15 g/dL? Yes No

6. Does your child live with or frequently come in contact with an adult who works with lead on the job or in a hobby? (examples: painter, welder, foundry worker old home renovator, shooting range worker, battery plant worker ,battery recycling worker, ceramics worker, stained glass worker, sheet metal worker, scrap metal worker, plumber.) Yes No

7. Does your child live near a battery plant, battery recycling plant, or lead smelter? Yes No

8. Do you give your child at home or folk remedies? Yes No
   (Examples: azarcon, greta, pay-loo-ah)

9. Does your child eat candy that comes from Mexico or is purchased from Yes No

a Mexican grocery store? (Examples: picarindo, vero palerindas)

10. Has your child ever lived in Mexico, Central America, or South America or visited one of these areas for a period longer than two months? Yes No

Lead Poisoning:
Prevention and Screening

Of all the health problems caused by the environment, lead poisoning is the most Preventable. Despite this, almost 1 million children in the United States have elevated levels of lead in their blood. Any child can be at risk for lead poisoning. This brochure has been developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics to inform parents about the risks of lead poisoning and how to prevent it. The brochure also discusses lead screening and treatment for lead poisoning.

How can lead hurt my child?

You may have heard that children can be harmed by the lead in pencils. This is not true. There is no actual lead in pencils and there is no lead in the paint on the outside of pencils.

Children ***can*** be harmed by lead by:

Getting lead dust from old paint on their hands or toys and then putting their hands in their mouths
Breathing in lead dust from old paint
Eating chips of old paint or dirt that contain lead\
Drinking water from pipes lined or soldered with lead

Once lead enters the body, it travels through the bloodstream and is stored mainly in the bones where it can remain for a lifetime. Very high levels of lead in the body may cause Many long-term problems including:

- Kidney problems
- Anemia
- Hearing loss
- Developmental delays
- Growth problems
- Seizures and coma

Most children with high lead levels in their blood show no obvious symptoms until they reach school age. At that point, some may show learning and behavioral problems.

Where can lead be found?

Lead is most often found in the following places:

- Dust and paint chips from old paint
- Homes built before 1960, particularly those that are in need of repair or are in Deteriorating condition
- Soil that has lead in it
- Hobby materials such as stained glass, paints, solders, fishing weights and Buckshot

Folk remedies
Workplace dust brought home on the clothing of people who have jobs that use Lead, such as battery manufacturers or smelting companies
Food stored in ceramic dishes (especially if made in another country)
Older painted toys and antique furniture such as cribs
Tap water in homes that have lead pipes
Mini-blinds manufactured outside the United States before July 1996

Prevention- what you can do

If your home was built before 1960, ask your pediatrician to test your child for lead.
If your home was built before 1978, talk to your pediatrician or health department about safe ways to remodel *before* any work is done.
Know your state laws regarding lead removal. Some states do not allow home owners to remove lead, only certified de-leaders.
Clean and cover any chalking, flaking or chipping paint with a new coat of paint, duct tape, or contact paper. It is important to check for paint dust or flaking paint at window areas where children often play.
Repair areas where paint is dusting, peeling or chipping before placing cribs, playpens, beds or high chairs next to them.
Encourage your children to wash their hand frequently, especially before eating.
Check your home or apartment for possible lead contamination before moving in. Keep in mind that landlords are legally responsible for removing any lead found on their property.
If you work around lead or have hobbies that involve lead, change clothes and shoes before entering your home. Keep clothes at work or wash clothes as soon as possible.
Check with your pediatrician or health department to see if your area has a problem with lead in the water.
If you have lead pipes, run the first morning tap water for two minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. Do not use ht tap water for mixing formula, drinking or cooking.

You can also reduce the risks of lead by making sure your child eats a well balanced diet. Give your child nutritious, low-fat foods that are high in calcium and iron, like meat, beans spinach and low-fat dairy products. Calcium and iron in particular reduce the amount of lead absorbed by the body.

Lead screening

The only way to know for sure if your child has been exposed to lead is to have your pediatrician test your child's blood. Lead screening tests use either a small amount of blood from a finger prick or a larger sample of blood from a vein in the arm. These tests measure the amount of lead in the blood.

Treatment

For children with *low* levels of lead in their blood, identify and eliminate the sources of lead to avoid future health problems. Children with *high* levels of lead in their blood usually need to take a drug that binds to the lead in the blood and helps the body get rid of it. This treatment if often done in the hospital and is usually given as a series of shots.

Some children with lead poisoning need more than one type of treatment and several months of close follow up. If the damage is severe, the child may need special schooling and therapy.

Most young children put things other than food in their mouths. They chew on toys, taste the sand at the park, and eat cat food if given the chance. This rarely causes any harm, as long as poisons and sharp object are kept out of reach. Lead, however, can be very dangerous to children. Infants and toddlers can get sick after putting their fingers in their mouths after touching lead dust, eating lead paint chips, or breathing lead dust. Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, anemia, or damage to the brain and kidneys. Talk to your pediatrician about getting a blood test, especially if your child is under three years of age. Take the steps listed in this brochure to make sure your child does not come in contact with lead.