



LEAD SAFETY TAKEAWAYS

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS & EDUCATORS

POTENTIAL SIGNS AND EFFECTS ON A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

An elevated lead level might affect a child's intellectual ability (the ability to retain or process information), speech, and language, hearing, attention, visual-spatial skills, executive functions (planning), motor skills, and behavior. It should also be noted that delays related to lead may not show up until a child is older or at all.

Effects often show up at developmental leaps. It is important to be mindful that delays can be associated with low levels of lead as well.

- Speech and language delays
- Short attention span
- Difficulty memorizing new concepts
- Social and emotional skills
- Basic academic skills i.e. proficiency in reading, arithmetic, science, and social studies
- Balance and coordination
- Motor skills
- Difficulty shifting from learning to read to reading to learn

HELPING FAMILIES UNDERSTAND EARLY INTERVENTION

REITERATE THAT THERE IS NO BLAME ON THE PARENTS

- Lead is a public health issue
- Many lead particles are undetectable i.e. lead dust
- 1 in 4 children in Cleveland is affected by lead by the time they enter Kindergarten, it is very common

HIGHLIGHT BENEFITS

- Individualized approach depending on child + family and what they need
- Early Intervention coordinators provide services in children's natural environment--where they live, learn and play
- Studies have shown better educational + social outcomes in children who participate in Early Intervention programs
- EBL is not a self-fulfilling prophecy for poor outcomes

USE EMPATHY AND PATIENCE

- This may be a parent or guardian's first touch point with lead
- Help them access and navigate resources
- Connect them with the Lead Safe Resource Center

AUTHENTIC MESSAGES OF **SUPPORT** **FOR** **FAMILIES**

- Taking time to acknowledge fear and validate worry that families have
- Letting them know they are not alone
- Helping them feel like someone is working with them
- Dig a little deeper about other competing priorities they may be facing and share resources like 211 and others
- Encourage them to stay connected to supportive friends, family, teachers, or health providers

7 STEPS TO REDUCE HAZARDS IN HOME- AND- CENTER BASED CHILD CARE SITES



- 1** NO DRY SCRAPING OR SANDBLASTING PEELING PAINT, WORK WET.
- 2** MAINTAIN THE HOME OR BY KEEPING THE PAINT INTACT AND MAKING REPAIRS.
- 3** REPAIR LEAKS IMMEDIATELY, AS THEY CAN LEAD TO DETERIORATED PAINT, CREATING A LEAD HAZARD.
- 4** COVER BARE SOIL WITH MULCH OR GRASS. USE RAISED BEDS IN GARDENING LESSONS.
- 5** REGULARLY CHECK FOR DETERIORATED PAINTED SURFACES.
- 6** COVER OR PAINT PORCHES.
- 7** CLEAN UP LEAD DUST USING SPECIAL CLEANING METHODS AFTER WORK IS COMPLETED.



Starting Point's Lead Safe Child Care Program provides lead-safe work, support to families and providers, and ongoing evaluation to improve its impact. Licensed center and home-based child care centers in Cleveland built prior to 1978 are eligible to apply.