

Lead poisoning is **preventable**.

There is no safe level of lead for children.

- **Early detection and prevention** are the best ways to protect children.
- **Lead is neurotoxic** and can cause permanent brain damage.
- **Young children** are most at risk.
- Lead is not just from old paint; it is found in **dust & dirt** inside and around homes, in soil and water and in some folk remedies - **it's invisible to the naked eye**.

AGE

ACTION

- 6 months ● Ask screening questions - test if indicated.
- 9 months ● Ask screening questions - test if indicated.
- 12 months*** ● **Always test and report.**
- 24 months*** ● **Always test and report again.**
- 3-6 years ● Ask screening questions - test if not previously done.

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* Testing for blood lead toxicity for all children enrolled in Medicaid is a federal requirement. The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) requires that all children enrolled under Medicaid receive a blood lead test between 9 months and 12 months and again at 24 months of age. If the member is at high risk for lead exposure, the initial test should be performed at the 6-month visit and repeated at the 12-month and 24-month visits. Children between the ages of 36 months and 72 months of age must receive a blood lead test if they have not been previously tested for lead poisoning. A blood lead test result equal to or greater than 5 µg/dl obtained by capillary specimen (fingerstick) must be confirmed using a venous blood sample. Subsequent tests are required for at-risk patients.