

PROTECTING our FAMILY and COMMUNITY

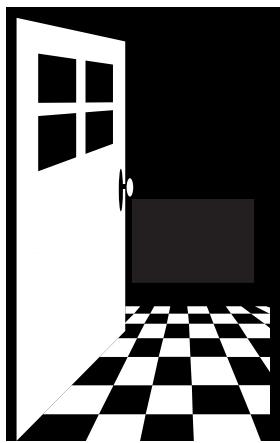
Protect Families from Lead Poisoning

In 1995, over 1,200 Kansas children were found to have elevated blood lead levels. Childhood lead poisoning is a preventable condition that nationally affects over one million children ages 6 and younger. It is caused by exposure to lead dust, lead paint, lead-contaminated soil and lead in water.

Children who are at high risk are those who live near high-traffic areas, live in or spend time in an older house (pre-1970), live near mining areas, and who have parents using lead in their work or hobbies. Children should be screened for high blood lead levels through a simple

blood test. Parents should know how to protect children who are at risk of lead poisoning from their home environment.

Recent legislation requires that consumers receive information about possible lead hazards if they are purchasing or renting an older home (see Resource 7). Removing lead hazards from the home is expensive and can place residents of the home at risk of lead poisoning. Information is available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about reducing risks during home remodeling (see Resource 6).



THE NEAR ENVIRONMENT

Resources

1. "Sesame Street Lead Away! Lead Poisoning Prevention Project," – a video produced by the Children's Television Workshop and the National Safety Council. The target audience is children under age 7. Using the Sesame Street technique of short skits, puppets and songs, children are taught how to reduce their risk of lead poisoning and are encouraged to have their blood tested for lead.
2. "For the Children-Lead Testing," – a video produced by K-State Research and Extension (SV-401). The target audience is parents of young children. The video explains the risks associated with lead poisoning and includes strategies for reducing those risks to children. The message is that children should have their blood tested for lead poisoning. Available from K-State Research and Extension Distribution. 24 minutes in length.
3. "Protect Kids from Lead Poisoning," – a flip chart produced by the Louisiana State University Cooperative Extension Service. Includes a script which the lesson leader can use to give a lesson on lead poisoning. Available at area extension offices.
4. "Lead in the Home," – an instructional module from the *Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes* teaching materials. It contains a script, masters for overhead transparencies and background materials. Included are sources of information from the EPA and other agencies. Contact Marilyn Bode, K-State Extension Housing Specialist.
5. A tabletop display with the header "It's In the Air" or "Healthy Indoor Air for Kansas Homes" – available from Marilyn Bode, K-State Extension Housing Specialist. The display contains a section on lead poisoning.
6. *Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home*, – EPA publication 747-R-94-002. For copies, call the National Lead Information Center, 1-800-LEAD-FYI.

7. *Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home*, – EPA publication 747-K-94-001. For copies, call the National Lead Information Center, 1-800-424-LEAD.
8. "Protect Children from Lead Poisoning" – a fact sheet from K-State Research and Extension (MF 2276). Available from K-State Research and Extension Distribution.

How to Present the Information

Resources 3 and 4 listed above provide scripts and resources for presenting a lesson on the risks of childhood lead poisoning and how to reduce those risks. They can be combined with the video listed in Resource 2. Handouts for members can include the fact sheet (Resource 8) and/or the EPA publication (Resource 7).

Community Projects

Community residents with children ages 6 and younger, who are at high risk of lead poisoning, should be encouraged to have their children's blood lead levels tested. Community projects can include:

- Encouraging parent groups at schools, day care centers, churches, libraries, etc., to view either the K-State video (Resource 2) or the Sesame Street video (Resource 1).
- Asking your local library and video rental stores to make the above videos available.
- Asking day care centers to show the Sesame Street video to children (Resource 1).
- Putting up a display at a local health fair encouraging parents to have their children tested.
- Hanging the poster that accompanies the Sesame Street video in grocery stores, laundromats, post offices, churches, schools, libraries, etc.
- Cooperating with your county health department to set up clinics for blood lead screening tests and advertise those clinics in the local newspaper.
- Distributing the K-State publication (Resource 6) at Women, Infant and Children (WIC) clinics, doctor's offices, day care centers, laundromats, and other places where parents of young children gather.
- Volunteering to give a program at a parent's group.

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Name of presenter: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Number of persons attending meeting: _____

County: _____

Community project chosen by your group:
(describe what project was chosen and, if possible, the results of the project) _____

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