

# Protect Your Family From Lead

## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What do you know about lead?
- What would you like to know about it?

### Definitions:

- Lead-based – contains a dangerous amount of lead
- Absorb – to take in or soak up



## Reading

Lead is **harmful** to adults. Lead is very harmful to children. It can cause  
14 brain damage. It can cause behavior and learning problems. It can cause slowed  
27 growth and hearing problems.

31 Babies and young children like to put their hands in their mouths. They put  
45 toys and other objects in their mouths, too. These things may have lead dust on  
60 them. Young children may put paint chips and dirt, or soil, in their mouths. These  
75 may have lead in them.

80 Many homes built before 1978 have lead-based paint. Lead may be found  
93 inside and outside these housing units. Soil around the house may have lead-based  
107 paint in it. The soil may also have lead from other sources such as past use of leaded  
125 gas in cars.

128 Household dust may have lead in it. Dust can pick up lead from old lead-  
143 based paint. It can also pick up lead from soil tracked into a home. Lead can enter  
160 the body through breathing in lead dust.

167 Inside or outside, peeling, chipping, chalking, or cracking lead-based paint  
178 needs to be taken care of right away. Look on windows and window sills. Look on  
194 doors and door frames. Look on stairs and railings. Look on porches and fences.

208 Young, growing bodies absorb lead easily. Keep your family safe from lead  
220 inside and outside your home.

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**Level 3.0**

## Understanding

1. What does the word **harmful** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What age homes may have lead-based paint? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. How does lead affect the body? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Where should you look for lead? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. How can lead enter the body? \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Why is there special concern about young children and lead? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

Choice A: Retell the reading in your own words.

Choice B: Write about someone you know who has high levels of lead in their body.

Choice C: Do you think you or your child could be harmed by lead? Why or why not?

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