



Health Effects Associated with Lead Poisoning

- Children with lead poisoning are usually asymptomatic. Symptoms that do occur are often subtle and mimic other childhood illnesses. The degree of symptoms varies from child to child.
- Mild lead poisoning can be associated with hyperactivity, irritability, sleeplessness, lack of concentration, behavioral problems, and learning disabilities.
- More severe lead poisoning may be accompanied by hearing problems, headaches, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, constipation, muscle soreness, anemia, neurological impairments such as stumbling or loss of concentration, seizures, encephalopathy, and coma.
- Persistent neurological impairment can follow even mild episodes of lead poisoning.
- Stopping ongoing exposure is the best remedy for most children with elevated blood lead levels.

Note that the neuro-developmental sequelae of lead poisoning may not be apparent for some years. The parents or other caregiver should remember to inform future health care providers and school guidance counselors that the child was lead-poisoned and may have special needs.

Source: [California Department of Public Health](#)