

Lead Screening

Lead is a heavy metal found naturally in the environment as well as in many common products.

In young kids whose brains are still developing, even a small amount of lead can cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and anemia. At higher levels, lead exposure can cause seizures, coma, and even death.

Doctors determine whether to do a blood lead test and when based on a child's risk for lead poisoning. Those who are considered at risk, such as kids who live in crowded cities or in houses built before 1978 or who are exposed to lead through a parent's occupation, are usually tested at ages 1 and 2 years, and might require additional testing until age 6.