



Parent Group Orientation on Lead Poisoning

Trainer Outline

Background: The best way to prevent lead poisoning is to prevent a child from being exposed to lead sources. This resource kit has tools and activities for presenting a parent group education session including a general overview of lead and how to prevent lead poisoning. The *Parent Group Orientation on Lead Poisoning* has three components:

1. Trainer Outline
2. PowerPoint Presentation, “The Story of Childhood Lead Poisoning”
3. Parent Folder Contents: Handouts and other activity materials

These education tools answer the basic questions of the “Who, What, When, Why, Where, and How” of lead poisoning and how to prevent it. Slides are listed in blue and handouts in orange.

WHO? Young children are most vulnerable because of how their body systems work (Slides: [Young Children are at Greatest Risk](#)).

WHAT? What they do developmentally puts them at risk (Slides: [What do Young Children Do?](#)).

WHEN? The only way to know if a child has been exposed is to test for lead and they should be tested at age 1 and age 2 (Slides: [Young Children should have their Blood Tested for Lead](#)).

WHY? Lead has negative effects on the body, both physical and mental (Slides: [Lead Poisoning has Lifelong Effects](#)).

WHERE? Lead is primarily a housing-based, invisible disease (Slides: [Look Out for Lead House](#), [Sources of Lead in Homes](#), and [Lead in Other Products](#)).

HOW? Things you can do right now (Slides: [What You Can Do](#)).

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES: Learn more about lead ([Head Start Activities](#) and [Sesame Street Activity Pages](#))



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Questions about this resource kit? Contact Reghan Walsh, Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, reghan.walsh@wi.gov, 608-261-9432, 1 W Wilson Street, Room 145, Madison WI 53702.

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Preparation, Supplies and Set-up for the Parent Group Orientation Session

Preparation for the Presentation:

- Read through the PowerPoint Presentation to get familiar with the slides and the handouts that go with them.
- From the Parent Folder Contents, make copies of the handouts and additional activities and put into a folder for each participant. Print the English or Spanish handouts as needed for your parent group. Put the handouts that go with the presentation on the right-hand side and the additional activities sheets you chose on the left. (Optional)
- Find out ahead of time if your health department or housing agency has a HEPA-filtered vacuum for rent or loan. When doing that portion of the presentation you can discuss it as a best practice and let participants know if one is available for their use. Most importantly, they should not use a shop vacuum or dry sweep with a broom. If no HEPA vacuum is available, discuss wet cleaning windows and wood floors as a good alternative that will remove most of the dust and paint chips.

Supplies for the activities:

- Laptop with PowerPoint presentation and projector
- Sugar packets
- Supplies for the Head Start Activities (Optional)

Extra materials that may be available from the state or local Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:

- Charlie Goes to Town* coloring books
- Environmental Health Growth Charts and tip cards
- Environmental Health Stickers
- Healthy Homes booklets

Set up the presentation:

- Set up laptop and projector with *The Story of Childhood Lead Poisoning* PowerPoint on the flash drive or desktop (or print slides as handouts).
- Put a sugar packet and folder at each place a person may sit. Keep a set for yourself.
- Have a HEPA vacuum to demonstrate cleaning techniques. (Optional)
- Have Swiffer supplies set up on a hard surface floor to demonstrate wet cleaning techniques. (Optional)

Steps of the Parent Group Orientation Session

Step 1: Make any introductions necessary if the people assembled don't know each other. Do an ice-breaking activity of your choice, if desired.

Step 2: Begin the PowerPoint presentation: *The Story of Childhood Lead Poisoning*.

Step 3: At the place indicated in the presentation (Slide 23), do the sugar packet analogy exercise.

Step 4: During the presentation, at places noted in the PowerPoint, use the specific handouts from the folder. After the presentation is completed go through the remaining handouts.

Step 5: Instruct the attendees to complete the feedback survey, then collect them.

Step 6: Do the Additional Activities* that the parents are interested in. (Optional)

Step 7: Please complete the *Parent Group Lead Orientation Session Evaluation* form indicating how you think your orientation session turned out. Please also send the Parent Feedback forms. Send the evaluation form and feedback forms to the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Program (contact information is on page 2). The information collected will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of this outreach and education initiative.

The Additional Activities are located in the Folder Contents document and can be included in participants' folders:

- Head Start activity pages
 - Learn with puppets
 - Sing about lead
 - Snack on healthy foods
- Sesame Street activity pages
 - Poster
 - Blood Lead Test Tracker Card
 - Dust Busters
 - Lead Police
 - Keep it Clean!
 - Take Your Shoes Off!

Possible Audience Questions and Answers:

This is a list of questions that attendees have asked during previous education sessions. They are included for your information. If you are comfortable, you can use them to answer questions, or, you can ask your health department if a knowledgeable staff person could attend the session to answer questions. If a representative is not available for your meeting and parents have questions you cannot answer, please contact the health department for answers and share with your attendees at a later time.

Q: *Is there any medical treatment for lead poisoning?*

A: The only time medical treatment is used for lead poisoning is if the child's blood level is 45 micrograms per deciliter or higher. Then the child may receive a chelation treatment. The child may have to be hospitalized to receive the treatment and will need to live in a lead-safe home after treatment.

Q: *Why doesn't my doctor just automatically test my child for lead?*

A: We don't know why a particular doctor might not automatically test a child for lead. We've gotten feedback that sometimes doctors think lead is not a problem where you live. Some doctors think if your child is enrolled in WIC, they automatically test the children for lead. Not all WIC programs test children for lead.

Q: *What should I do if I think one of my child's toys looks like one on the list of recalled toys?*

A: You could have your toy tested. Or to be on the safe side, just throw it away.

Q: *If I'm worried about the windows and other places in my home, what should I do?*

A: You can call the health department to see if they can come to your home to look around for possible lead hazards. Or you can call the state [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#) at 608-266-5817 or the [Lead-Safe America Foundation](#) at 415-609-3182.

Q: *Does my water contain lead?*

A: If you live within city limits, the water is checked for lead by the city water program. Each year they send out a report and on that report it will tell you how much lead was found. The lead has to be below a certain level (15 parts per billion) at all times.

If you live in the city and in an older home, you might have a lead pipe that goes from the city water line to your house. If you have not used your water for about six hours, run the water from the cold water tap for two to three minutes before using it for cooking, drinking, or formula preparation. Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap.

If you have well water, you might want to get your water tested for lead. You can call the health department to find out if they test well water for lead or if other wells in the area have lead. You can contact the State Laboratory of Hygiene (800-442-4618) to have them send you a water test kit with instructions for drawing a good water sample.

More information about lead in water can be found on the [Department of Natural Resources website](#) (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/DrinkingWater/lead.html>).