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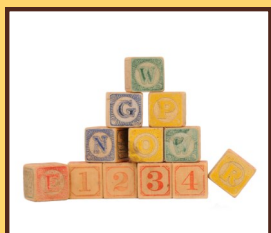


# Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott County  
Child Care Providers

By Jane Matzen, RN and Heidi Hotvedt, RN

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Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



[www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)

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## Childhood Lead Poisoning

Childhood lead poisoning has significant effects on the health of children and on community health. Lead has adverse effects on nearly all organ systems in the body. It is especially harmful to the developing brains and nervous systems of children under the age of six years. Symptoms of lead exposure include: Lower IQ, hyperactivity, behavioral and learning problems, developmental delays, hearing problems and anemia.

Many of Iowa's pre-1960 homes contain lead-based paint. Young children who live in pre-1960 homes become lead-poisoned when they put paint chips or exterior soil in their mouths or when they get house dust and soil on their hands and put their hands in their mouths. Additional sources of lead may include: older toys; recalled toys and toy jewelry; folk medicine and cosmetics; candy imported from Mexico; cookware, tableware or other containers that are not lead free; water from older plumbing or recalled plumbing systems; and adults working with lead-based products due to employment or hobbies such as stained glass, making bullets, or using a firing range.

The effects of lead exposure may not be noticed for many years. All Iowa children under the age of 6 years should be tested regularly for lead poisoning. Iowa Department of Public Health recommends that children be tested for lead at 1 year of age and yearly until age 6. State law requires that children have a blood lead test prior to kindergarten entry.

For more information on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention go to <http://www.idph.iowa.gov/lpp> or contact your local CCNC at <http://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci>

## Recalled Water Coolers due to Lead

A local CCNC was researching some information on the history of lead poisoning and came across an article on recalled drinking water coolers that had lead lined holding tanks. She identified 2 of the older style water coolers with model numbers in this 1990 recall and reached out to Scotsman Ice Systems (a company formally associated with the Halsey Taylor company who manufactured the coolers) and Iowa Department of Public Health Bureau of Environmental Health for guidance.

In 1988, the Lead Contamination Control Act required notification of schools, preschools, and daycare centers of the information regarding lead potential in the drinking water. Testing was encouraged of sites where children would drink the water.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides guidance to schools and child care in the document "Drinking Water Best Management Practices for Schools and Child Care Facilities Served by Municipal Water Systems" The information is available at the following link: <http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=P100HGM8.txt>. This guidance recommends that water from all water outlets including drinking fountains and water faucets where water will be used for drinking or cooking be tested for lead. When testing indicates an elevated lead level, the water outlet should be taken out of service until remediation is completed. EPA has recommendations for maintenance operations and to remove an item from service if needed.

Both recalled drinking water coolers found by the CCNC are now out of use and proper protocol is being followed. For information about the recalled water coolers go to: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lcca-banned-water-coolers-appendix-e-3ts.html>