

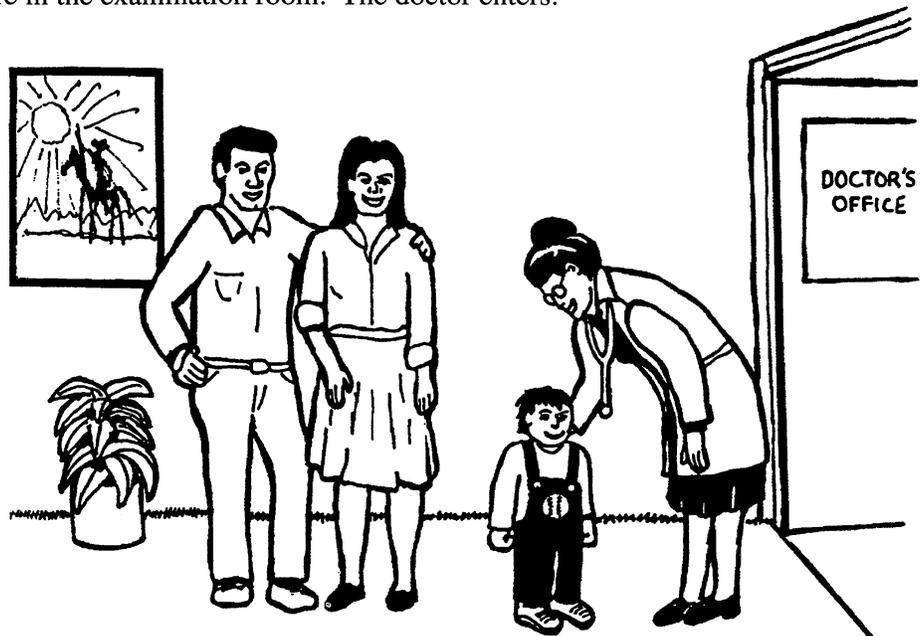
US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Going to the Doctor

## 1 At the Doctor's Office

*Directions:* Read or act out the following passage.

Mr. and Mrs. Borges have a little boy. His name is Alexi. Alexi is two years old. He is happy and healthy. Today is his checkup at the doctor's office. They are in the examination room. The doctor enters.



*Doctor:* Hello. How are you today?

*Mr. Borges:* Fine. Thank you.

*Doctor:* How is Alexi?

*Mrs. Borges:* He is fine. He has a lot of energy. He runs all day. He loves to play with his toys.

*[The doctor takes Alexi's temperature. She listens to his heart and his chest with a stethoscope. Then, she looks at his eyes, his mouth, and his ears.]*

*Doctor:* Alexi is a very healthy boy. He does not need a shot today.

*Mr. Borges:* That's good.

*Doctor:* Does he play outside every day?

*Mrs. Borges:* I go outside with him in the afternoon every day.

*Doctor:* How old is your house?

*Mr. Borges:* We live in an old house. It is 50 years old.

*Doctor:* I need to test Alexi for lead poisoning.

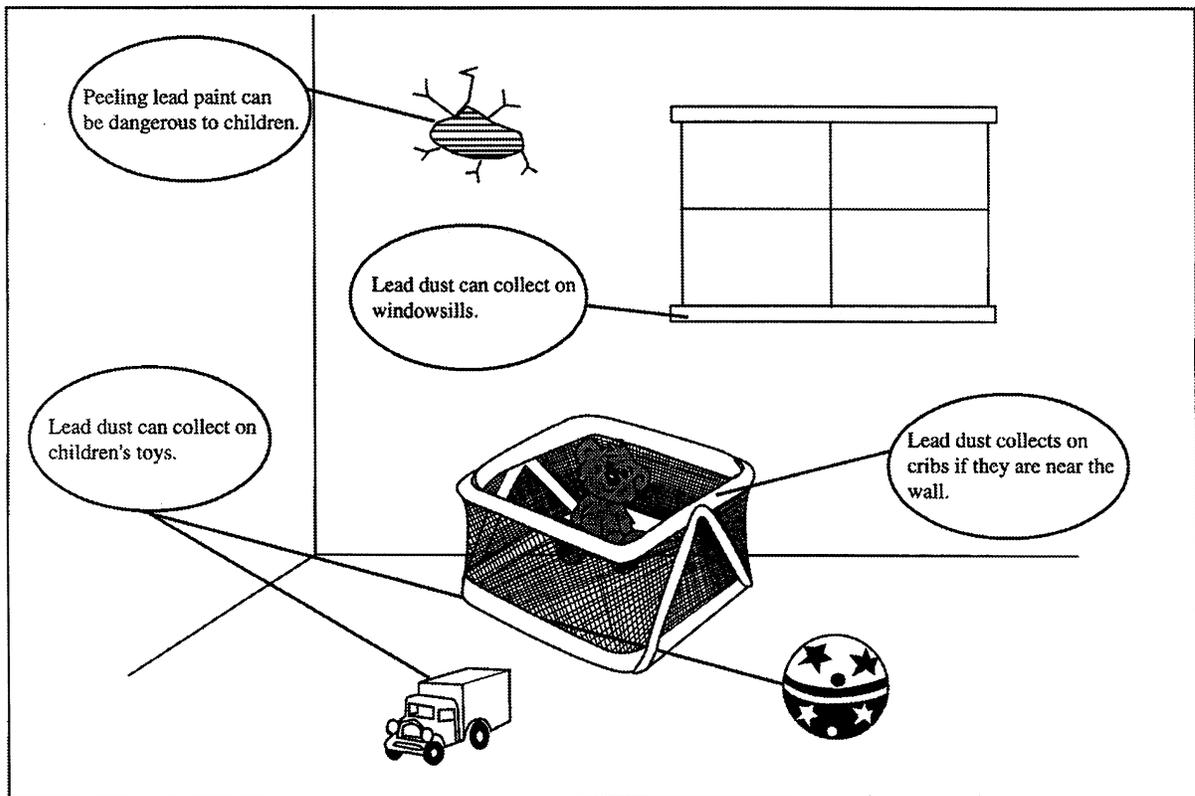
*Mr. Borges:* Why? He is not sick.

*Doctor:* Your house is old. Many houses built before 1978 have paint with lead. Lead is dangerous. Lead gets into children's blood. It can hurt their brains and make it hard for them to learn. Children can have problems in school.

*Mr. Borges:* But, doctor, Alexi does not eat paint. We watch him carefully.

*Doctor:* I know. You are very good parents. But lead poisoning is very dangerous. The paint gets old. It changes to dust. The dust falls on toys. All children put toys in their mouths. Lead gets into children's blood. I will test Alexi's blood. The test results will be ready in one week.

*Mrs. Borges:* Thank you, doctor.



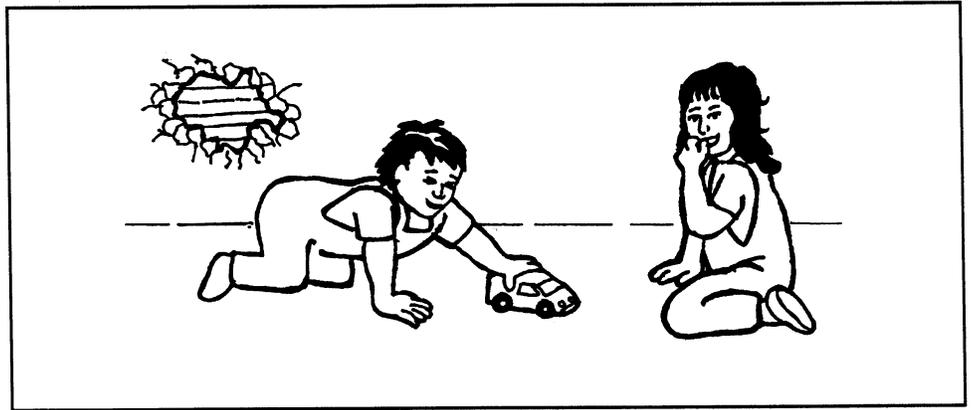
# 2

## Vocabulary

**Directions:** Review the vocabulary words below and define each using simple English terms.

examining room(s) (n.)  
healthy (adj.)  
lead poisoning (n.)  
brain(s) (n.)  
immunization(s) (n.)  
blood (n.)  
paint (n.)  
dust (n.)  
window(s) (n.)

checkup(s) (n.)  
lead (n.)  
dangerous (adj.)  
stethoscope (n.)  
finger(s) (n.)  
body(ies) (n.)  
mouth(s) (n.)  
test (v.)



# 3

## Review and Discuss

**Directions:** Review “At the Doctor’s Office” and answer the following questions.

1. Why is Alexi at the doctor’s office? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is Alexi sick? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does the doctor tell the Borgeses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where do the Borgeses live? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does the doctor test Alexi for lead poisoning? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why is lead dangerous for children? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How does lead get from the paint into a child? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 4

## Act Out the Scene

This activity will help you feel comfortable talking to doctors and nurses about your health and about lead poisoning. Some doctors do not ask their patients about lead poisoning. Therefore, you need to be prepared to ask questions and tell your doctor or nurse what you are worried about. Then, your doctor or nurse may be able to better help you and your children.

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**Directions:** Using the information below, role-play a scene between doctor and patient. Act out the scene in front of the others or work in pairs and practice the dialogue as partners, each taking turns playing doctor and patient.

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*Patient:* You live in an old house. You want the doctor to test your child for lead poisoning. What do you say to the doctor?

*Doctor:* What do you say to the patient?

**5**

# Understanding the Test Results

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**Directions:** Read or act out the following passage.

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Mrs. Borges and Alexi return to the doctor's office. It is one week later. The test results are ready.

*Doctor:* Hello, Mrs. Borges. How are you?

*Mrs. Borges:* I'm fine. But I'm worried about Alexi.

*Doctor:* Don't worry. I have the test results. Alexi has some lead in his blood. It is only a little. It is not dangerous.

*Mrs. Borges:* Will he get sick?

*Doctor:* No. He will be fine. I will test him again in six months. Until then, you can do some simple things to make your house and yard safer. Alexi will be OK.

*Mrs. Borges:* Doctor, I am pregnant. Is the new baby safe?

*Doctor:* Alexi and the new baby will be fine. Again, you can make your house safer. Here is a list of important rules. This will help Alexi and the new baby. Also, you should test your water. It is important to have lead-free water.

*Mrs. Borges:* Thank you, doctor.

**6**

# Vocabulary

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**Directions:** Review the vocabulary words below and define each using simple English terms.

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yard (*n.*)

current (*adj.*)

low (*adj.*)

mop(s) (*n.*)

dirt (*n.*)

wash (*v.*)

scatter (*v.*)

absorb (*v.*)

recommend (*v.*)

worry (*v.*)

high (*adj.*)

safe (*adj.*)

furniture (*n.*)

vacuum (*v.*)

wipe (*v.*)

nutritious (*adj.*)

empty (*adj.*)

stomach (*n.*)

**7**

# Complete the Sentences

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*Directions:* Complete the sentences below in class.

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1. Mrs. Borges is worried about \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Most old houses have \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Alexi's test results show that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Alexi's next checkup is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Lead in the blood causes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**8**

# Review the Doctor's Report and Recommendations

**Directions:** Read the doctor's report aloud and discuss the doctor's recommendations.

Neighborhood Health Clinic  
SUSAN JONES-SANTIAGO, M.D.

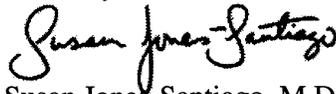
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Borges,

Your son, Alexi, has some lead in his blood. We need to stop the lead poisoning. I want you to do these things:

- √ Watch what Alexi puts into his mouth.
- √ Mop floors with a damp mop (use automatic dishwasher soap and water) and wipe furniture and windowsills with a damp cloth to remove dust.
- √ Wash your child's hands before he eats.
- √ Every day wash the objects that Alexi puts into his mouth.
- √ Vacuum rugs and carpets frequently, but do not vacuum the floors.
- √ Make sure Alexi eats regular nutritious meals, because more lead is absorbed on an empty stomach.
- √ Watch Alexi when he plays outside. Do not let him eat dirt. Pieces of paint fall in the dirt.

I will test Alexi again in six months.

Sincerely,



Susan Jones-Santiago, M.D.

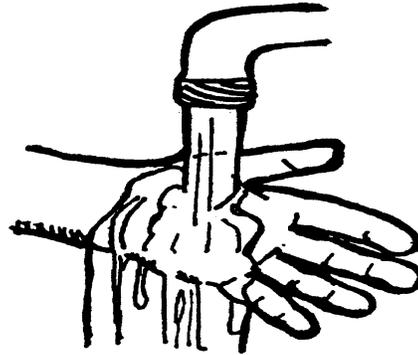
*Watch what your child puts into his or her mouth.*



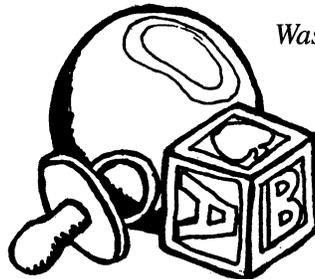
*Mop floors and wipe down furniture and windowsills.*



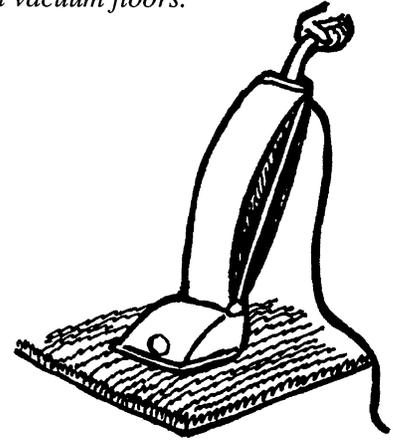
*Wash your child's hands before he or she eats.*



*Wash objects that your child puts into his or her mouth.*



*Vacuum rugs and carpets frequently, but do not vacuum floors.*



*Make sure that your child eats regular nutritious meals.*



*Make sure that your child does not eat dirt.*



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**Note to Student:** More information on preventing lead poisoning can be found in the units “Making Water Safe to Drink” and “Identifying Symptoms of Illness.”

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