

Science Time

Program Content for May 4, 2016

Read the article “Testing of children found small number had high lead levels” on page B1 of the Sunday, May 1, 2016 edition of The Seattle Times.

Pre-reading and Vocabulary: Define each term and then use it in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding.

1. lead
2. waiver
3. screening
4. triage

Comprehension Questions

1. How many children in Washington posted elevated blood lead levels last year?
2. Why did the agency that oversees Medicaid request a waiver from federal rules requiring lead screening for all toddlers ages 1 and 2?
3. What risks do exposure to lead carry for young children?
4. List the possible sources of lead exposure in a home.
5. What percentage of the 20,000 tests conducted in 2015 reported children with lead levels equal to or greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter of blood?
6. How have blood-lead levels changed nationwide since the 1970s?
7. What are two likely reasons why blood-lead levels have fallen since the 1970s?
8. Why did the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services change their lead screening policy?
9. If the new lead screening policy is approved what will become the key to ensuring that all children actually at risk for lead poisoning get tested?

Prompts and Extensions

1. Take an in depth look at the risks posed from lead exposure by browsing the CDC’s [website](#).
2. The new lead screening policy being proposed by Washington state is likely to have both benefits and risks. First, brainstorm a list of the benefits/risks that could result if the new policy is adopted. Next, use this expert [report](#) to add to your list. Finally, create a written statement that demonstrates your opinion either for or against the new policy.
3. A renewed emphasis on lead in the environment has arisen due to contaminated drinking water in Flint, Michigan. Get caught up on what occurred in Flint by reading through this [timeline](#) of events.
4. Design a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that warns your community about the threat of lead exposure and what they can do to protect themselves and their family.
5. Read this Seattle Times [article](#) about the elevated lead levels found in the drinking water of Tacoma schools and this [one](#) about how lead levels are tested.

Science Time is posted to the Web on Wednesdays. Please share this NIE Science Time program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register

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