



## **1. Introduction**

This Health and Safety Plan is designed to ensure the safety of children in the Kids Central, Inc. Head Start program by addressing potential lead exposure from both paint and potable water sources. It includes provisions for testing, monitoring, and remediation to comply with Head Start standards and state regulations.

## **2. Lead Exposure Prevention Policy**

**Objective:** Prevent children from being exposed to lead in water and paint within Head Start facilities.

**Scope:** This policy applies to all Head Start facilities operated by Kids Central, Inc., including classrooms, common areas, and other spaces used by children.

## **3. Potable Water Testing and Monitoring**

### **a. Identification of Water Sources**

-Action: Identify all potable water sources within the facility, including:

- Bubbler-style and cooler-style drinking fountains
- Kitchen taps
- Classroom combination sinks
- Any visibly used sinks for consumption

Timeline: Complete identification within the first 30 days of program operation.

### **b. Water Testing Plan**

- Timeline: Test all identified water sources at least every two years.
- Action: Engage a certified laboratory to perform lead testing on water samples from all identified sources.
- Documentation: Maintain records of all test results, including test dates and lead levels.



**c. Response to Elevated Lead Levels**

- Action: If lead levels are at or above 15 parts per billion (ppb):
- Immediate Remediation: Cease use of affected water sources.
- Remediation Measures: Engage licensed professionals to remediate lead contamination.

**This may involve replacing or repairing plumbing fixtures and pipes.**

- Retesting: Conduct follow-up testing to confirm lead levels are below 15 ppb.
- Documentation: Record all remediation actions and retesting results.

**d. Reporting**

- Action: Submit all test results, remediation actions, and follow-up results to the Commissioner and the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water.
- Documentation: Keep copies of all submitted documents and correspondence.

**e. Alternative Water Sources**

- Option: If preferred, use bottled water or water coolers meeting FDA standards for bottled water for human consumption.
- Notification: Notify the Commissioner, the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water, and parents of each child of this choice.
- Documentation: Maintain records of notifications and correspondence related to this option.

**4. Lead Paint Testing and Prevention**

**a. Initial Inspection and Testing**

- Timeline: Conduct an initial inspection of all painted surfaces within the first 60 days of program operation.
- Action: Engage a licensed lead inspector to test paint surfaces using certified methods (e.g., X-ray fluorescence or laboratory analysis of paint samples) every two years.
- Documentation: Keep records of inspection and testing results, including locations and lead content levels.

**b. Ongoing Monitoring**



- Timeline: Perform lead paint testing at least every two years.
- Action: Repeat testing on painted surfaces to monitor for lead hazards.
- Documentation: Maintain up-to-date records of all testing and inspection results.

**c. Remediation and Abatement**

- Action: If lead is detected at hazardous levels:
  - Immediate Remediation: Engage licensed lead abatement professionals to give guidance to Kids Central maintenance to remove or encapsulate lead-based paint. A licensed professional may also be engaged to remove or encapsulate lead-based paint themselves.
  - Post Remediation Testing: Conduct follow-up testing to ensure lead levels are within safe limits.
- Documentation: Record all remediation activities, including methods used and results of follow-up testing.

**d. Ongoing Maintenance**

- Action: Develop a maintenance plan to prevent new lead hazards from developing.
- Procedures: Regularly inspect and maintain painted surfaces and address any signs of deterioration.
- Documentation: Keep a schedule of maintenance activities and inspection results.

**5. Staff Training and Awareness**

**a. Training**

- Timeline: Provide annual training for staff on lead safety, detection, and prevention.
- Content: Training should include information on lead hazards, response procedures, and safety practices.
- Documentation: Record training sessions, including attendance and topics covered.

**b. Parent and Guardian Awareness**

- Action: Inform parents and guardians about lead exposure risks and the measures taken by the program to mitigate these risks.



**Methods:** Distribute informational materials and hold meetings as needed.

**Documentation:** Keep records of communications and feedback from parents and guardians, if appropriate.

## **6. Emergency Response**

### **a. Lead Exposure Incident Response**

**Action:** Develop and implement a protocol for responding to lead exposure incidents, including immediate actions, notifications, and medical follow-up.

**Procedures:** Ensure staff are trained to recognize symptoms of lead exposure and follow the emergency response protocol.

### **b. Documentation and Reporting**

**Action:** Document all lead exposure incidents and report them to the appropriate health authorities.

**Documentation:** Maintain records of the incident, actions taken, and outcomes.

## **7. Plan Review and Evaluation**

### **a. Review**

**Timeline:** Review and update the Health and Safety Plan annually or as needed based on changes in regulations or facility conditions.

**Action:** Assess the effectiveness of lead prevention measures and make necessary adjustments.

### **b. Evaluation**

**Action:** Conduct periodic evaluations of the plan's implementation, including feedback from staff, policy council, Board of Directors and families.

**Documentation:** Keep records of evaluations and any changes made to the plan.



## 8. Contact Information

### a. Lead Safety Coordinator

- Terry Gentry
- 276-679-0514 ext. 114
- [tgentry@kidscentralinc.com](mailto:tgentry@kidscentralinc.com)

### b. Local Health Department

- Wise County and City of Norton Health Department
- 276-328-8000
- [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov)
- Dickenson County Health Department
- 276-926-4979
- [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov)

This Health and Safety Plan aims to provide a comprehensive approach to prevent lead exposure in Kids Central, Inc. Head Start facilities, ensuring a safe environment for all children. Regular adherence to and review of this plan will help maintain compliance with applicable regulations and promote a healthy learning environment.

### Related Head Start Program Performance Standards & Regulations:

Code of Virginia § 22.1-289.057. Child day programs and certain other programs; potable water; lead testing.

HSPPS 1302.47 (10)