

# Pediatric Environmental History Quick Card

## KEY QUESTIONS

1. Do you have concern about any exposure?
2. Are symptoms associated with a place, time, or activity?
3. Are others your child spends time with having problems?

## EXPOSURES TO CONSIDER

**Household:** Where does the child spend time?

- Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)
- Age, condition, renovation: mold, lead paint, asbestos, radon (basement), formaldehyde (mobile home), other volatile off-gassing
- Heating sources: CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, particulates
- Household cleaners and chemicals
- Pesticide use: indoor, outdoor
- Parental occupation and take-home exposures: lead, asbestos, pesticides
- Antigens: dust mites, cockroaches, pets

**Dietary**

- Local fish advisories: Hg, PCBs
- Drinking water: wells, bottled (formula mixing)

**PEHSU**

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**Community**

- Industrial/agricultural zones, high traffic
- Polluted lakes, streams, dump sites

**Hobbies**

- Arts/crafts, stained-glass windows and lead, model-building and solvent glues
- Lead risks: automotive work, firing ranges

**Alternative and complementary therapies**

- Supplements (Pb, Hg, other)
- Folk remedies (Pb, Hg, other)
- Chelation

**When to Introduce Environmental Questions**

<b>Suggested Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Prenatal	Home environment, ETS
When the child is 2 months old, add	Sun exposure, mold, occupational and take-home exposure, breast- and bottle-feeding water source
When the child is 6 months old, add	Poisons: household pesticides, cleaning chemicals; lead
Preschool period	Arts and crafts exposures
Teenager	Adolescent employment safety training: burns (fast food), sun, pesticides (outdoor work), cuts and crushing injuries (box cutters, meat slicers, paper balers), violence/robbery (handling cash); hobbies

\*Adapted: Etzel R. Ed. Handbook of Pediatric Environmental Health. AAP 2003

Health professionals, agencies and families with questions about environmental exposures and child health may contact  
 NW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at  
**1-877-KID-CHEM.**

