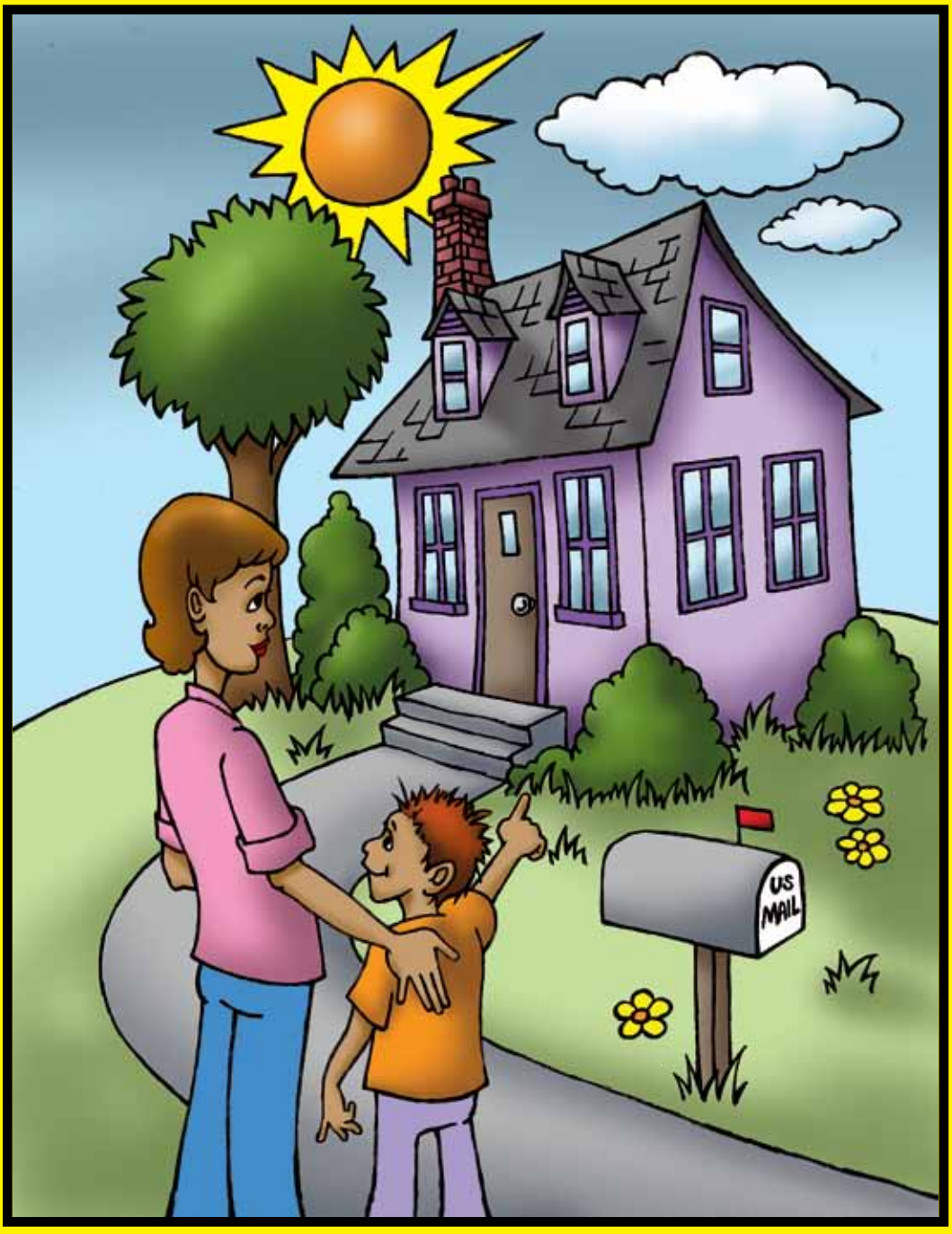
ETHAN'S HOUSE GETS HEALTHIER

With a Visit from the Lead Poisoning Prevention Team



Prevent Lead Poisoning

Get your child tested
Get your home tested
Get the facts

http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead
http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyHomes/programs.html

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Environmental Health

Ethan's House Gets Healthier

With a Visit from the Lead Poisoning Prevention Team

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Illustrated by Robert Hobbs

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Tips page adapted from
health educational material
from
Philadelphia Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
California Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
CDC at http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips.htm

Reference:
Lead Poisoning: Words to Know from A to Z
HHS CDC 2011

Acknowledgements:
Taran Jefferies and Nikki Walker

Dr. Hoot N. Owl told Irene that her son, Ethan, had lead in his blood. He asked if their home was built before 1978.

Many homes built before 1978 have lead paint on the inside and outside. When the lead paint gets old, it starts peeling or coming off in pieces. That is called chipping.
Can you find the chipping paint?

Irene called her landlord to tell him about the chipping paint on their porch and windows.
The landlord hired the Lead Poisoning Prevention Team to test the chipping paint for lead.
The paint had lead in it!
Leadbert, LaDonna and Leadfrey will fix the lead paint problem in the house.

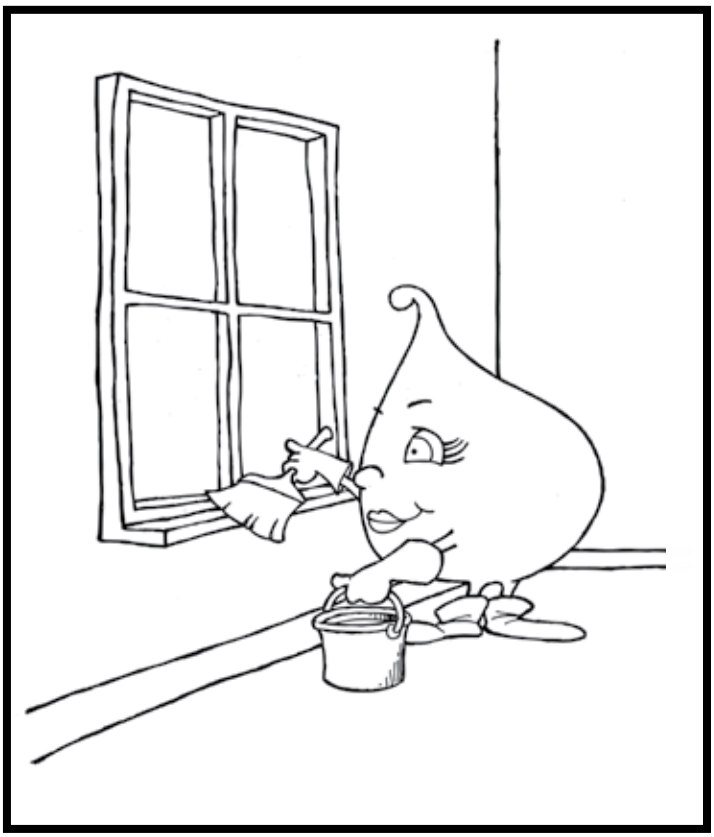
Ethan is excited to go stay with his grandparents while the Lead Poisoning Prevention Team repairs the peeling and chipping paint in the house.
It is dangerous for the family to be in the house while the workers fix the lead paint problem.
Do you like to visit family?

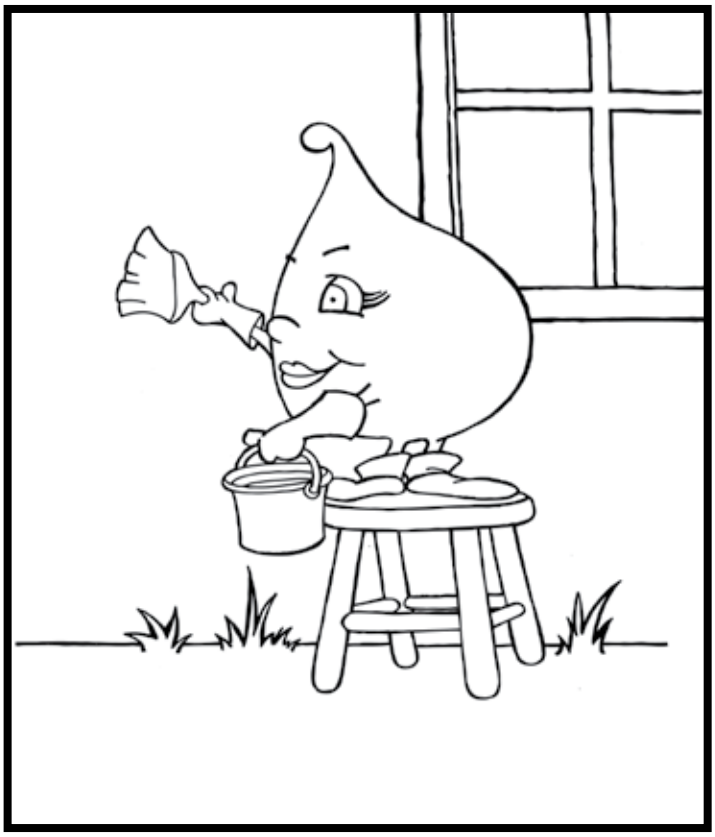
Leadbert is a licensed contractor.
He uses a spray bottle to wet painted areas with water before he scrapes
so he doesn't create dangerous dust.

Leadbert wears coveralls and a special face mask
so he won't breathe in lead dust while he works.
This protects him from getting lead in his body.

Leadfrey cleans the house after Leadbert removes the chipping paint.
Leadfrey wears a mask so he doesn't breathe in lead dust while he is vacuuming.
He wears gloves so that he won't get lead dust on his skin while he works.

Leadfrey likes to clean lead dust from old homes.
Leadfrey knows that it is important to wet wipe floors, window sills and play areas with a wet sponge or paper towel.





Paint companies cannot put lead in paint anymore.
After Leadbert removes the old chipping paint and Leadfrey cleans up,
LaDonna paints a fresh layer of paint, so the walls and windows are smooth.
Fixing a lead problem in a house is called "lead abatement".
What colors would you paint this house?

Leadbert, Leadfry and LaDonna have finished their work. Now, the house does not have any chipping paint. The house has been tested and it has no lead dust.
Now the family can move back into their house, because the work is finished.

The lead that got into Ethan's blood came from lead dust from old peeling paint.
Now the house has new paint and the lead dust is gone.
Ethan will be healthier. Ethan and his parents are very happy.

If the house or the building where your child spends a large amount of time, such as grandparents' house or daycare, was built before 1978 and hasn't been tested, assume the building has lead paint.

Tips to Prevent Exposure to Lead and Its Harmful Effects

Talk to your state or local health department about testing paint and dust in your home for lead. Have your house tested. If it has lead paint, get a lead expert to remove old paint using lead-safe work practices following the renovation rules of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Separate children from areas with lead dust and make sure your child cannot reach peeling paint. Block peeling paint or holes in walls by covering them with contact paper or duct tape. Close and lock doors to keep children away from chipping paint on walls. Keep your child's bed or crib away from chipping paint. Clean up loose paint chips with a wet mop. Do not dry sweep lead dust.

Wet-mop floors and wet-wipe windows, sills and baseboards once a week.

Keep children from playing in bare soil. Move play areas away from bare soil and away from the sides of the house that have chipping paint or lead dust. Plant grass on bare soil or cover the soil with mulch or wood chips. Keep indoor and outdoor toys separate. Wash toys, bottles and pacifiers regularly to remove lead dust and soil.

Regularly wash children's faces and hands, especially before meals.

Use only cold water from the tap for drinking, for cooking, and for making baby formula. Run water for at least one full minute when the water has been sitting in the pipes, such as first time in the morning.

Some jobs leave lead on clothes. If your job exposes you to lead, shower and change clothes before you leave work. Do not wear work clothes in the family vehicle after work. Wash work clothes separately from family laundry.

What to do during Renovation of Buildings and during Soil Remediation

Stay out of houses built before 1978 when they are being renovated or during lead paint removal. This is especially important for children and pregnant women. Children and pregnant women should not help with activities that disturb old paint or help clean up dust and paint chips after the work is finished.

Give a hoot!
Prevent lead poisoning!

Dr. Hoot N. Owl

For more information, please contact your state or local lead poisoning prevention program:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Environmental Health