



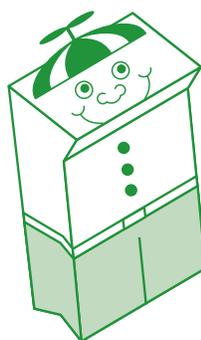
# Head Start

## CLASSROOM EXERCISES

One important way to keep children healthy is to teach them how to avoid lead hazards in and around their homes. This story is intended for children between the ages of 3 and 6 years old. Lead interferes with the development and functioning of almost all body organs, particularly the kidneys, red blood cells, and central nervous system. The following story should be performed as a puppet show to illustrate important behaviors children should learn to avoid lead hazards. You will need three socks or paper bags to create the three characters — **Buster D. Lead, Dusty, and Chip.**

After reading the story, children should be able to know:

- ▶ Who Chip and Dusty are
- ▶ Where Chip and Dusty can be found
- ▶ How they can get sick
- ▶ The three rules:
  - 1 – Stay away from Chip and Dusty,
  - 2 – Don't play near windows, and
  - 3 – Wash your hands before you eat.



Buster D. Lead



Dusty



Chip

The following questions and answers also are important for children to learn:

- 1) Name three things you can get lead poisoning from?  
Answer: paint chips, dust from lead-paint, and dirt.
- 2) Demonstrate at least two behaviors that will help prevent lead poisoning.  
Answer: Wash your hands and toys. Eat foods that contain calcium and iron.
- 3) Can you name any foods that are rich in iron and will help prevent children's bodies from absorbing lead?  
Answer: Red meat and green leafy vegetables (Spinach).
- 4) Can you name any foods that are rich in calcium that will help prevent children's bodies from absorbing lead?  
Answer: Yogurt, milk, and cheese.

# GET THE LEAD OUT WITH CHIP AND DUSTY



**Buster's Line:** Hi kids! I'm Buster D. Lead, and I'm here to help you protect yourself against the lead paint bad guys, Chip & Dusty!

Look! Here they come now!



**Action:** Chip & Dusty enter; Buster leaves

**Chip's Line:** Hey everybody! I'm Chip. I'm a piece of lead paint that has broken off of a wall or window. If a child picks up a paint chip and puts it in his mouth, it could make her VERY sick!



**Dusty's Line:** Hi, kids! I'm Dusty. You can't see lead dust because it's really, really small. I hide on the floors or windows, and I can make you really sick too, if you play with a toy on the floor and put it in your mouth, or eat while you're near me!

**Action:** Buster enters; Chip and Dusty leave



**Buster's Line:** Thanks, you guys! You see, kids, lead paint is something that can make you very sick. Now we're going to do a little play so YOU can tell me what to do to protect myself against Chip & Dusty! I'm going to go over to Chip & Dusty. You don't want me to do that because being near, or playing with, lead paint can make you very sick, and make it harder for you to learn. You don't want that to happen, right? Right!!! Good, now let's practice. I'll go play next to Chip & Dusty and when I do, say **STAY AWAY FROM CHIP AND DUSTY!** Now let's try it.

Buster starts to play with a toy in a window, and Chip & Dusty go over to him. Children are prompted to say **STAY AWAY FROM CHIP AND DUSTY!** When Buster continues.

**Action:** Buster runs from Chip & Dusty, and Buster applauds their actions.



**Buster's Line:** Great job, kids! That's what you do when Chip & Dusty are around. Let's try this again. Only this time, I'll be playing on the floor because lead dust and chips also get on the floor and can get inside you if you put your hands or toys in your mouth!

Buster gets down on the floor and plays with his toy, then gets ready to put it in his mouth as Chip & Dusty sprinkle paint chips and dust on the floor. Children are again prompted to say **STAY AWAY FROM CHIP AND DUSTY!** when Buster continues.

Great job, kids! What do we say when children play near lead paint?

**ALL: STAY AWAY FROM CHIP & DUSTY!**

**Action:** Chip & Dusty run from the room.

Very good, kids! Now you all know what to do when lead paint is around!



For more information about lead poisoning, visit EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or call The National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).

