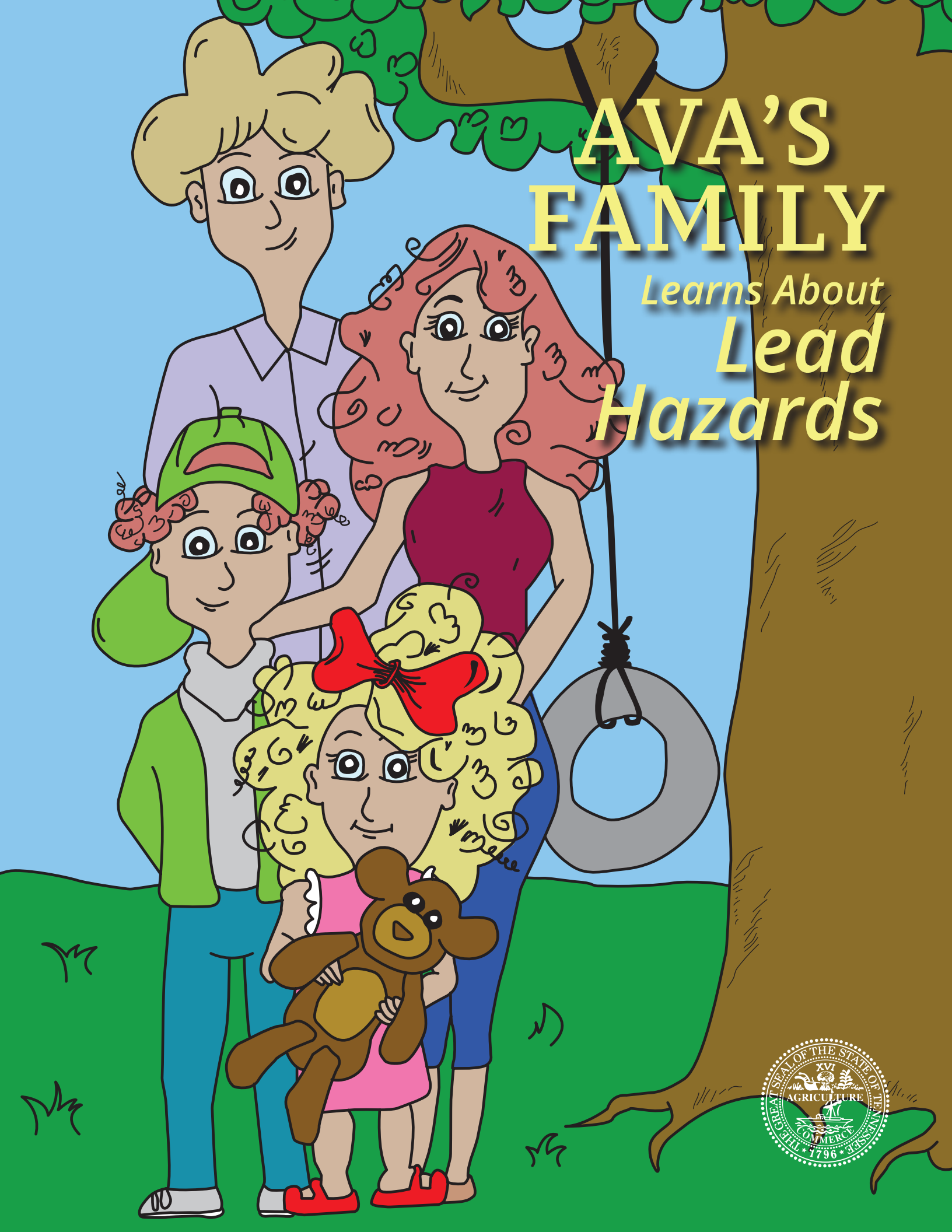


AVA'S FAMILY

Learns About
Lead
Hazards



PARENTS' INFORMATION

WHAT IS LEAD AND WHERE IS IT FOUND?

Lead is a soft gray metal that occurs naturally in some types of rock. This rock is mined and processed to make a useable form of the metal, which is added to many products by manufacturing companies, such as batteries, vinyl mini-blinds, glaze on pottery and tiles, in costume and toy jewelry, soldering used in plumbing, fishing lures and sinkers, stained-glass windows and many other things.

Lead has been added to paint for a long time to make it more durable and make brighter colors. In 1978, selling lead paint to use in homes was banned in the United States. Lead paint is still used on steel structures such as bridges, overpasses and ships, and in the stripes and markings found on some streets and highways.

Despite the ban, lead paint is still found in some older houses and apartments built before 1978. Old lead paint that is not in good condition can crack and peel creating paint chips that are visible, and also release dust that is not visible. This invisible dust can spread around a home onto floors, window sills and other surfaces. Paint outside the house on windows, doors and other parts of the home can deteriorate also. This lead can end up in the dirt around the home and stay there for a long time, even years after the lead paint has been removed from the building.

When children play in the home, lead dust can get on their hands and faces from floors, toys and other objects. Babies and toddlers often put their hands and other objects in their mouths as a normal behavior, and swallow this lead dust. When children play in the yard, they may also swallow dirt that has lead in it in the same way. This can cause lead poisoning.

WHAT IS LEAD POISONING?

Lead that is swallowed can move into the blood during normal digestion. Lead can also be inhaled and move into the blood from the lungs. Normal blood circulation takes this lead around the body and to all of the organs, including the kidneys, bones and brain. Lead is not useful for the human body but sometimes takes the place of useful nutrients like iron and calcium and prevents normal functions. This is called lead poisoning.

In grown-ups, lead poisoning can cause anemia, high blood pressure, reproductive problems (infertility and birth defects in their children), and at higher levels can cause kidney problems and problems with the nerves and brain.

In babies and children aged 6 and under, very small amounts of lead can cause big problems with how their brains grow and develop. Childhood lead poisoning can cause permanent problems like reduced I.Q., learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Even when the lead poisoning goes away, the damage it causes does not go away and stays throughout that child's lifetime. This is why it is important to prevent childhood lead poisoning in the first place.



HOW CAN I PROTECT MY FAMILY?

Prevention is important to keep your family safe from lead poisoning. If you live in a house or apartment built before 1978, your landlord should have provided you the Lead Disclosure statement with your lease and informed you of any known lead-based paint or lead hazards in your unit or house and a pamphlet with information about lead hazards.

If you are a homeowner, you may wish to hire a certified lead inspector to find out if your house has lead paint. Renovations and repairs in homes built before 1978 must be done by a contractor who is EPA certified and trained in lead-safe work practices (Visit this website <http://www2.epa.gov/lead/renovation-repair-and-painting-program-consumers> for information).

Children under the age of two should have a simple blood test done by their pediatrician or other health professional to see if they have lead in their blood. You may wish to ask your child's doctor if this has been done and what the results are. Your child's doctor or the local health department should provide guidance in cases where children are found to have an elevated blood lead level (EBLL).

If you live in a home with lead-based paint, there are some steps you can take to help prevent your children from being poisoned by lead:

- Wet-wipe and mop floors and other surfaces and avoid dry dusting and vacuuming, which just moves lead dust around.
- Wash children's hands and faces frequently, especially before eating.
- Wash toys, pacifiers and other items children use frequently
- Try to prevent children from putting their hands and objects in their mouths as much as possible
- Provide healthy meals with high iron and calcium, which will help prevent lead which has been swallowed from being absorbed into the blood. Avoid high-fat foods such as fried foods which increase the amount of lead that gets absorbed by the body when it is swallowed.
- Take off shoes before coming into the house so lead in soil and from some jobs which use lead is not tracked into the house.
- Be sure not to disturb painted surfaces in your home that may have lead-based paint unless you know it has been tested and is not lead-based paint
- If you find cracking, peeling or chalking paint in your home, or paint that has been damaged by water or another cause, keep children away from it. Speak to your landlord about hiring a certified lead professional about fixing or removing the problem - do NOT attempt to remove lead paint on your own as this may cause a large amount of contamination in your home.
- Check regularly for recalls on toys and other items in your home that may contain lead at this website: <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/>

WHERE DO I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HELP?

- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Lead Hazard Program: <http://tn.gov/environment/article/sw-lead-hazard-program> or call toll-free 1-888-771-LEAD for more information.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www2.epa.gov/lead>
- United States Housing and Urban Development: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/healthy_homes/healthyhomes/lead
- Contact your Local Health Department to see if they have a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)



Doctor Bill has bad news. Ava has lead in her blood. The family's home was built before 1978 when lead-based paint was still being used.



Dana, the lead risk assessor, comes to the family's house with special equipment to find out what caused Ava's lead poisoning.



Dana explains how she will inspect their home. She will take dust samples inside with a special kind of wipe. She will take soil samples outside and a water sample from the kitchen sink. Dana will use a special X-Ray machine called an “XRF Analyzer” to test paint for lead. Have you had an X-Ray at the dentist or doctor?

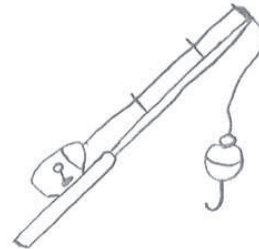
Glazed Pottery



Vinyl Mini Blinds



Fishing Equipment



Painted Toys



Keys



Peeling Paint



Imported Spices



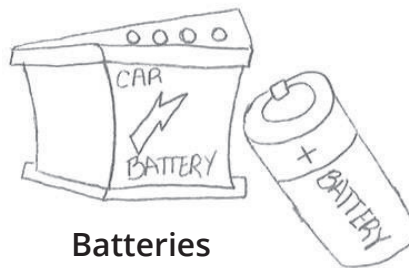
Play Jewelry



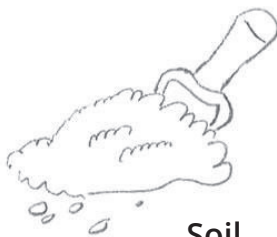
Imported Candy



Batteries



Soil



Dana tells Ava's family that many things found in homes might have lead that could have caused Ava to have lead in her blood.

A	Q	R	O	T	C	O	D	R	H	S
G	R	M	P	S	T	O	G	O	A	P
H	L	O	S	S	C	F	M	A	Z	A
I	O	P	U	T	L	E	A	D	A	I
L	E	D	N	O	S	I	O	P	R	N
K	M	R	F	A	M	I	L	Y	D	T
O	N	W	W	O	D	N	I	W	S	O

Find the Words:

LEAD

HAZARDS

POISON

PAINT

FAMILY

HOME

DUST

MOP

WINDOW

DOCTOR



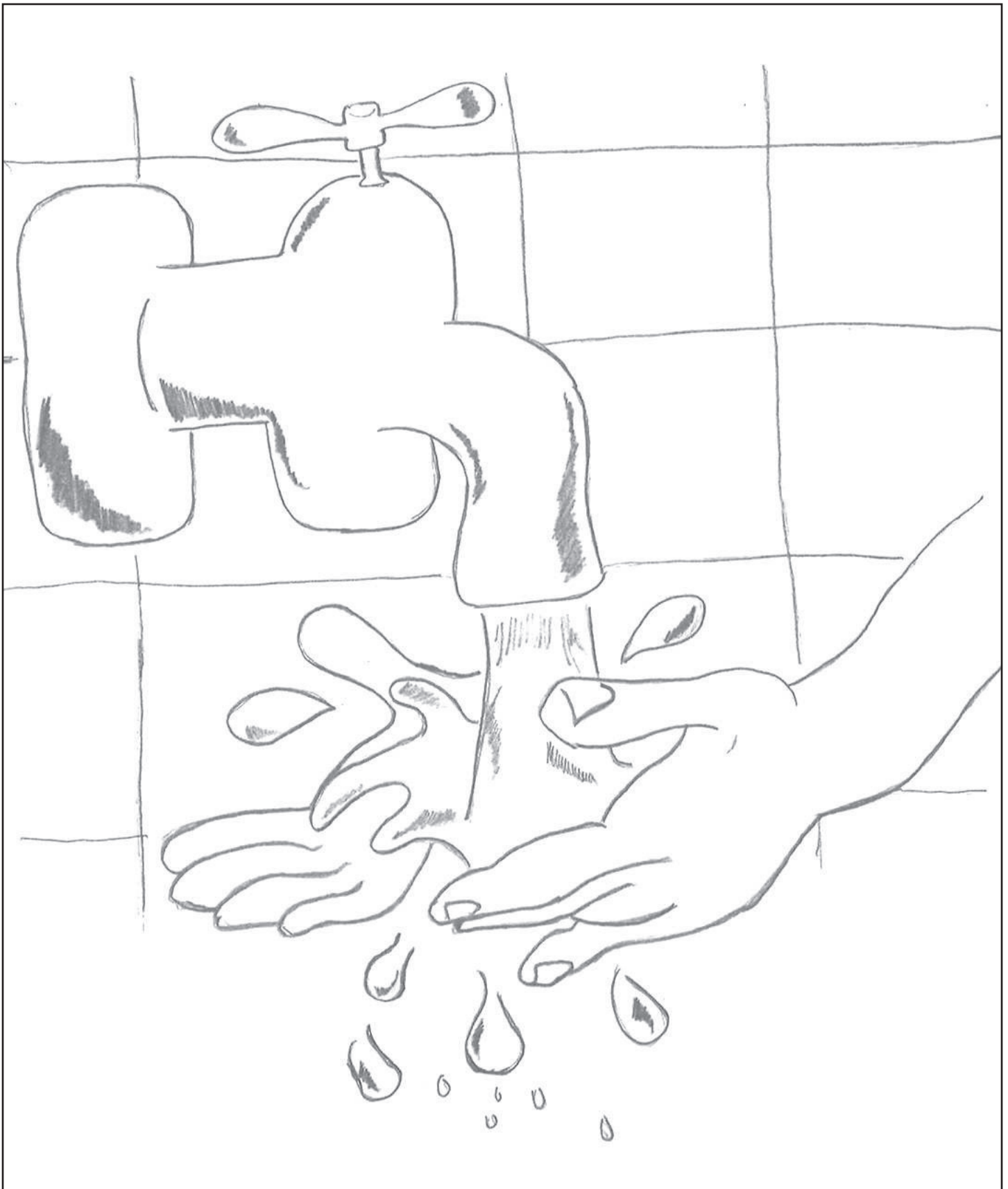
Dana explains that when little children with lead poisoning get bigger and go to school, it can be more difficult for them to pay attention in school and to behave and get along with others.



Ava's brother James remembers seeing her playing on the dusty floor, peel paint chips from the window sill, play with painted toys and put her hands in her mouth.



Dana explains that healthy foods can help prevent lead poisoning. Foods such as milk, cheese, spinach, meat, broccoli, and beans contain iron and calcium help prevent lead from causing harm to the body. Fried foods can make the body take in more of the lead that is swallowed.



Dana explains how important it is to wash hands after playing. It is very important to wash your hands before eating or touching food.

Help Ava pick healthy
food for her lunch!

Circle healthy food
and put an X over
unhealthy food.



Candy



Carrot



Soda



Banana



Broccoli



Pizza



Apple



Ice
Cream

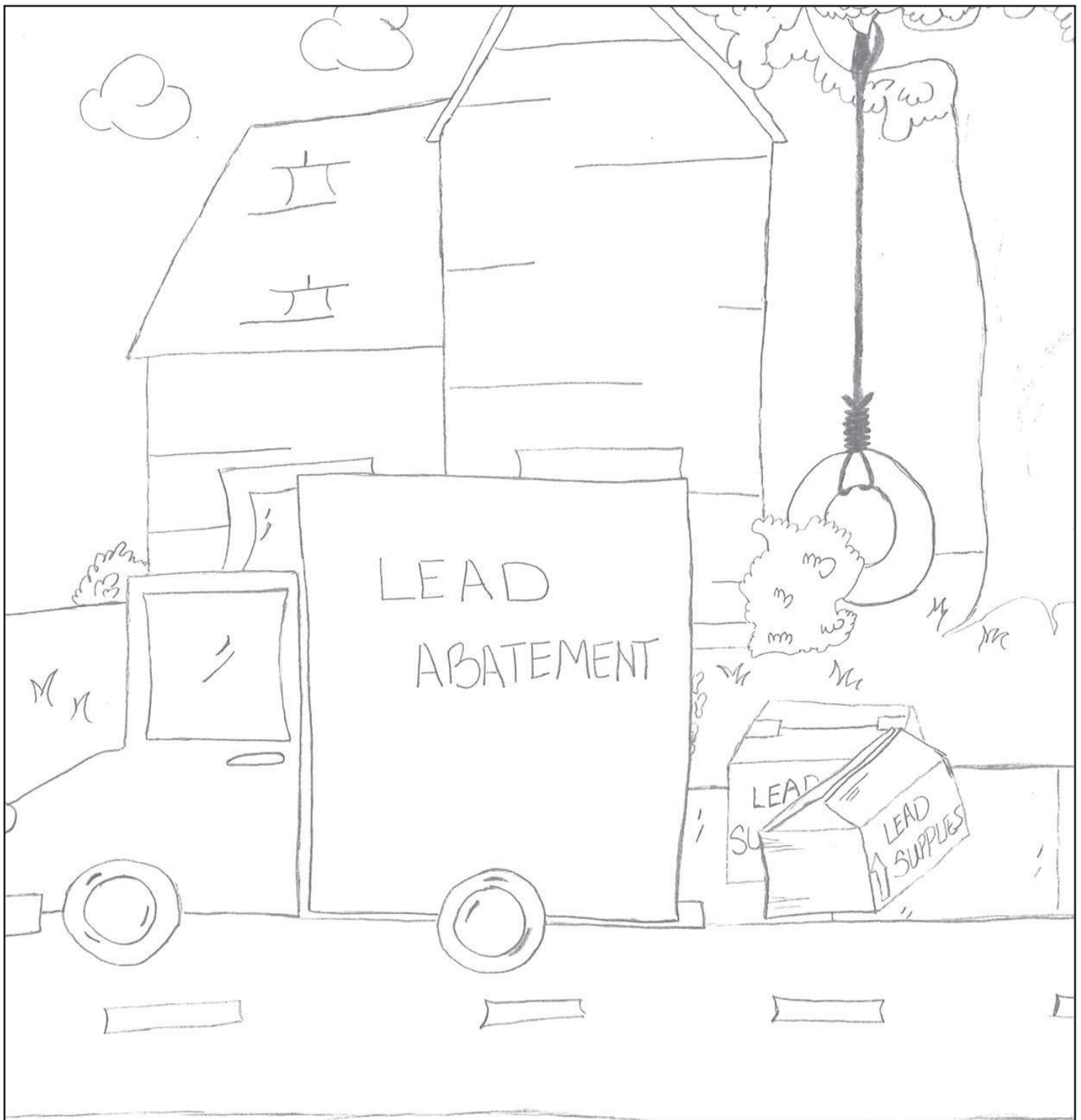
Color the paint buckets using numbers!



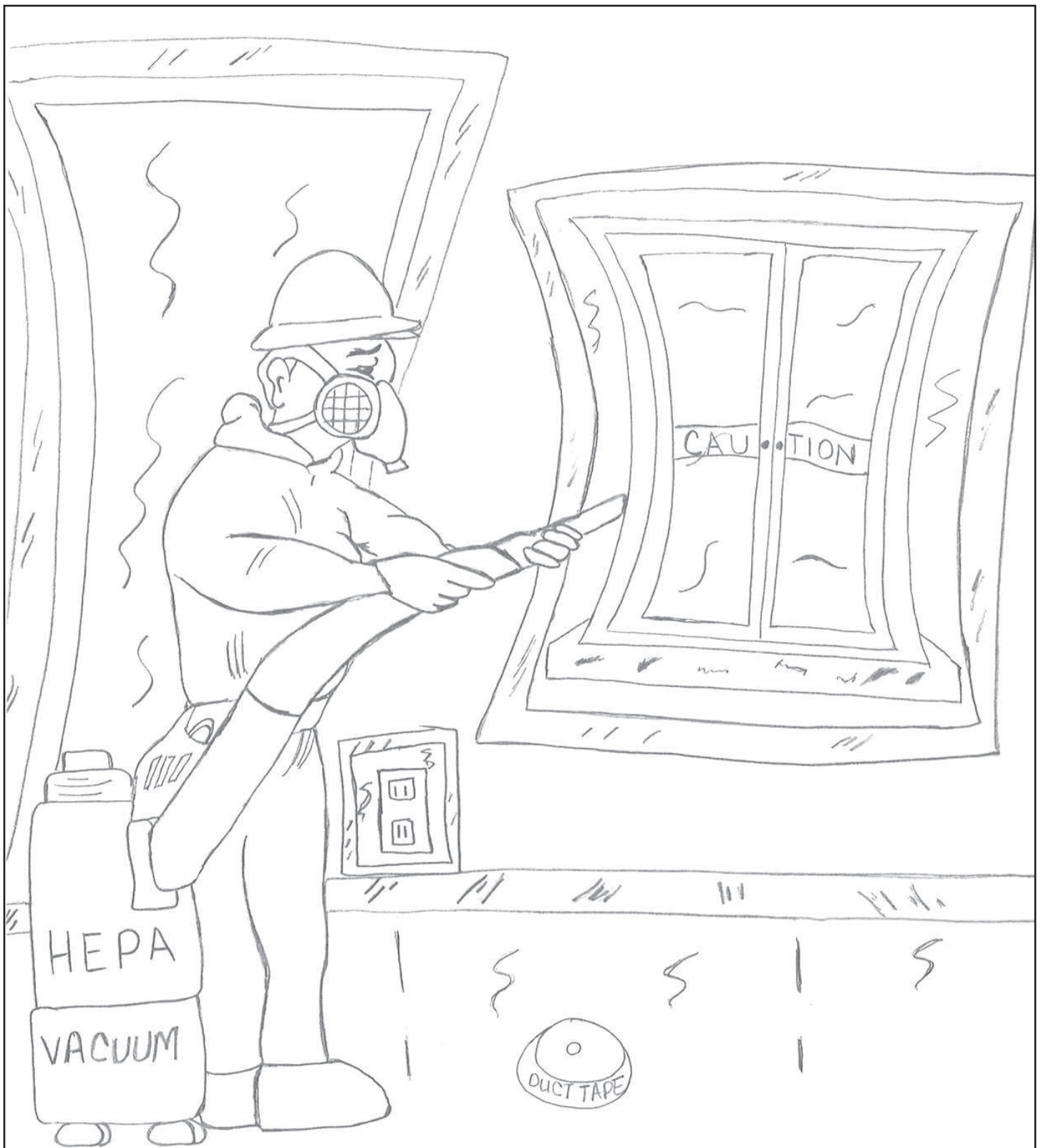
1. Gray 2. Red 3. Blue 4. Yellow 5. Black 6. Brown



Dana found lead paint in the family's home. This paint caused Ava to have lead poisoning. It isn't safe for the family to stay in the house so the family will stay with grandma and grandpa while their home is made safe from lead.



The lead crew arrives at the family's home to remove the lead paint. The contractor has a special license to remove harmful lead paint from homes.



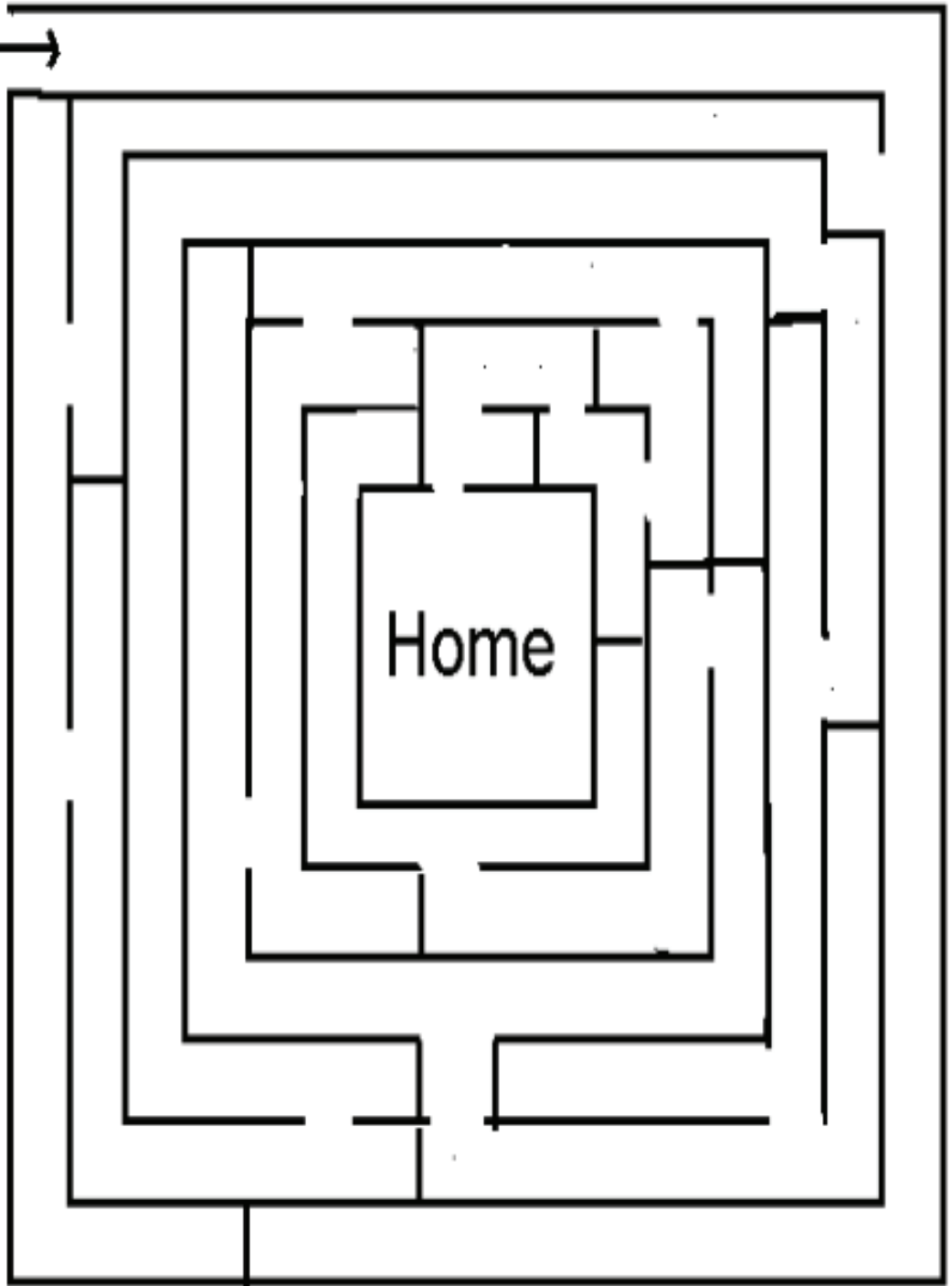
The lead crew has a special face mask he wears to prevent him from breathing lead dust. He wears coveralls to keep lead off of his body. He tapes down plastic over the floor and over the doors to keep lead paint dust from spreading around the house while he replaces the windows with lead paint with new safe windows.



The lead paint is gone and the house has been cleaned. Dana calls the family and tells them that she has tested the house and the test results show the home is safe now.

Follow the road home

Start →





The family returns to a safe home that will not make Ava or any member of the family sick from lead. Thanks to everyone for creating a lead-safe environment!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Story concept by Rebecca Huntemann

Puzzles and illustrations by Jessica Hendricks

Text written by Joseph Brown, M. Ed, and edited by Jessica Hendricks

Sponsored by:

Tennessee Toxic Substances – Lead Hazard Program

Division of Solid Waste Management

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

312 Rosa L. Parks Ave, 14th Floor

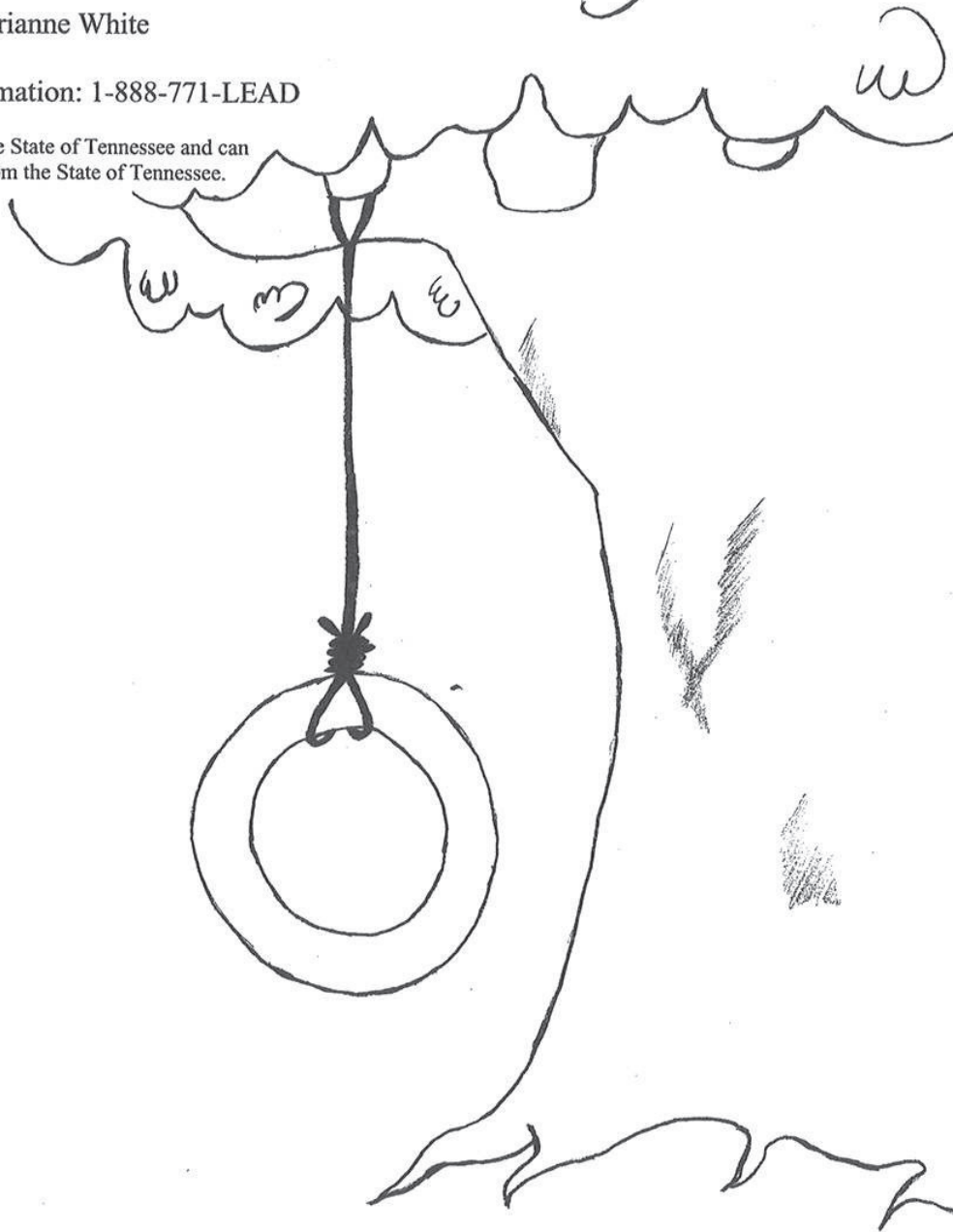
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Call Toll-Free for More information: 1-888-771-LEAD

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Tennessee Department Environment and Conservation. Authorization No. 331910. No. of copies, 1,000. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.94 per copy. August 2017.