

# Pediatric Environmental History (0-18 Years of Age)

## The Screening Environmental History

For all of the questions below, most are often asked about the child's primary residence. Although some questions may specify certain locations, one should always consider all places where the child spends time, such as daycare centers, schools, and relative's houses.

Where does your child live and spend most of his/her time?	_____
What are the age, condition, and location of your home?	_____
Does anyone in the family smoke?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you have a carbon monoxide detector?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you have any indoor furry pets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
What type of heating/air system does your home have? <input type="checkbox"/> Radiator <input type="checkbox"/> Forced air <input type="checkbox"/> Gas stove <input type="checkbox"/> Wood stove <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
What is the source of your drinking water? <input type="checkbox"/> Well water <input type="checkbox"/> City water <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water	
Is your child protected from excessive sun exposure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Is your child exposed to any toxic chemicals of which you are aware?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
What are the occupations of all adults in the household?	_____
Have you tested your home for radon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Does your child watch TV, or use a computer or video game system more than two hours a day?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
How many times a week does your child have unstructured, free play outside for at least 60 minutes?	_____
Do you have any other questions or concerns about your child's home environment or symptoms that may be a result of his or her environment?	_____

### Follow up/Notes

The Screening Environmental History is taken in part from the following sources:

- American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health. Pediatric Environmental Health 2nd ed. Etzel RA, Balk SJ, Eds. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003. Chapter 4: How to Take an Environmental History.
- Balk SJ. The environmental history: asking the right questions. *Contemp Pediatr*. 1996;13:19-36.
- Frank A, Balk S, Carter W, et al. Case Studies in Environmental Medicine. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Atlanta GA. 1992, rev. 2000. Taking an Exposure History.

This screening environmental history is designed to capture most of the common environmental exposures to children. The screening history can be administered regularly during well-child exams as well as to assess whether an environmental exposure plays a role in a child's symptoms. If a positive response is given to one or more of the screening questions, the primary care provider can consider asking questions on the topic provided in the Additional Categories and Questions to Supplement the Screening Environmental History, accessible at <http://www.neefusa.org/pdf/PEHhistory.pdf>.

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## Additional Categories and Questions to Supplement The Screening Environmental History

For all of the questions below, most are often asked about the child's primary residence. Although some questions may specify certain locations, one should always consider all places where the child spends time, such as daycare centers, schools, and relative's houses.

### General Housing Characteristics (For lead poisoning, refer to Table 3.2 in Managing Elevated Blood Lead Levels Among Young Children)

Do you own or rent your home?	_____
What year was your home built? (Or: Was your home built before 1978? 1950?)	_____
Has your child been tested for lead?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Is there a family member or playmate with an elevated blood lead level?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Does your child spend significant time at another location? (e.g. baby sitters, school, daycare?)	_____

### Indoor home environment (For asthma, refer to Environmental History Form for Pediatric Asthma Patient)

If a family member smokes, does this person want to quit smoking?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Is your child exposed to smoke at the baby sitters, school, or daycare center?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do regular visitors to your home smoke?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Have there been renovations or new carpet or furniture in the home during the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Does your home have carpet?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Is the room where your child sleeps carpeted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you use a wood stove or fire place?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Have you had water damage, leaks, or a flood in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you see cockroaches in your home daily or weekly?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you see rats and/or mice in your home weekly?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you have smoke detectors in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure

### Air Pollution/Outdoor Environment (For asthma, refer to Environmental History Form for Pediatric Asthma Patient)

Is your home near an industrial site, hazardous waste site, or landfill?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Is your home near major highways or other high traffic roads?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Are you aware of Air Quality Alerts in your community?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you change your child's activity when an Air Quality Alert is issued?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you live on or near a farm where pesticides are used frequently?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure

## Food and Water Contamination

If you use well water for drinking, when was the last time the water was tested?

Coliform bacteria\_\_\_\_\_ Other microbials\_\_\_\_\_ Nitrites/nitrates\_\_\_\_\_ Arsenic\_\_\_\_\_ Pesticides\_\_\_\_\_

For all types of water sources:

Have you tested your water for lead?

Yes  No  Not sure

Do you mix infant formula with tap water?

Yes  No  Not sure

Which types of seafood do you normally eat? \_\_\_\_\_

How many times per month do you eat that particular fish or shellfish? \_\_\_\_\_

How many times a week do you eat any of the following types of fish?

Shark\_\_\_\_\_ Swordfish\_\_\_\_\_ Tile fish\_\_\_\_\_ King mackerel\_\_\_\_\_ Albacore tuna\_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

How often do you wash fruits and vegetables before giving them to your child? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of produce do you buy?  Organic  Local  Grocery store  Other

## Toxic Chemical Exposures (Also refer to Taking an Environmental History and Environmental and Occupational History in Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings)

*Consider this set of questions for patients with seizures, frequent headaches, or other unusual or chronic symptoms*

How often are pesticides applied inside your home? \_\_\_\_\_

How often are pesticides applied outside your home? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you store chemicals/pesticides? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you often use solvents or other cleaning or disinfectant chemicals? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a deck or play structure made from pressure treated wood? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

Have you applied a sealant to the wood in the past year? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

What do you use to prevent mosquito bites to your children? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you apply that product? \_\_\_\_\_

## Occupations and Hobbies

What type of work does your child/teenager do? \_\_\_\_\_

Do any adults work around toxic chemicals? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

If so, do they shower and change clothes before returning home from work? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

Does the child or any family member have arts, crafts, ceramics, stained glass work or similar hobbies? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

## Health Related Questions

Have you ever relocated due to concerns about an environmental exposure? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

Do symptoms seem to occur at the same time of day? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

Do symptoms seem to occur after being at the same place every day? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

Do symptoms seem to occur during a certain season? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

Are family members/neighbors/co-workers experiencing similar symptoms? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

Are there environmental concerns in your neighborhood, child's school, or day care? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Not sure

Has any family member had a diagnosis of any of the following?

Asthma  Autism  Cancer  Learning disability

Does your child suffer from any of the following recurrent symptoms? \_\_\_\_\_

Cough  Headaches  Fatigue  Unexplained pain\_\_\_\_\_

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