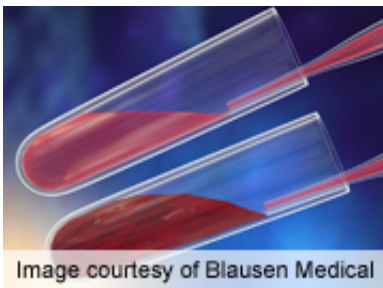


# Even low blood lead levels may impact children's cognition

May 13 2013

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Blood lead levels of 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or greater correlate with reduced reading readiness at entry to kindergarten, according to a study published online May 13 in *Pediatrics*.

(HealthDay)—Blood lead levels (BLLs) of 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or greater correlate with reduced reading readiness at entry to kindergarten, according to a study published online May 13 in *Pediatrics*.

Pat McLaine, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., R.N., from the University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore, and colleagues linked kindergarten reading readiness [test scores](#) for 3,406 children attending public kindergarten in Providence, R.I., with [state department health records](#) of blood lead testing.

The researchers found that the median geometric mean BLL was 4.2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  and that one-fifth of children had one or more venous BLLs at or

above 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . Compared with children with BLLs

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