**Practice Lab: The Integrated Lead Poisoning Prevention Assignment**

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Happytown, USA is a historical and diversified community with accessible housing, quality schools, and pride. This town is full of people of all ages and races. The majority of the population has a lower income. There are many affordable historical properties in the area, making it easier to live here. While Happytown, USA appears to be a wonderful place, there are several potential sources of lead exposure. Certain behaviors, beliefs, and practices that occur here may raise the risk of lead poisoning. Effective communication on the dangers of lead, as well as prevention, can play a critical role in minimizing risks.

As pleasant as Happytown seems to be, living here may expose you to lead. Many of the homes in Happytown, USA were built between the 1930s and 1950s. Lead-based paint was extensively used on the interior and exterior of homes before 1978 (CDC, 2022). Those who cannot afford home renovations are encouraged to do it themselves. These home renovations may include removing old interior and exterior paint. The removal of old paint might result in paint chips and dust. These chips and dust contain lead, which is exceedingly dangerous, especially to small children. Furthermore, these lead chips and dust have the potential to contaminate the soil around the homes (CDC, 2022). As a result, the soil in which children often play in poses an additional risk. Young children are more susceptible to lead poisoning than adults since they absorb more lead. The annual Happytown fun fair gathers children and families together where toy donations fair allow each child to receive three second-hand toys. These toys pose a risk since they may contain lead-based paints. Plastic carnival necklaces are popular among the town's children. Toy jewelry may contain lead, increasing the risk of exposure (CDC, 2022). Tiro is a type of eye cosmetic that has been traditionally used on children. This type of eye makeup is quite trendy in town. Tiro often contains lead and poses a threat to residents. Animals hunted by the Buckshot Buddies Hunting Club are widely consumed in this town. These animals may have traces of lead from the bullets they were shot with. Of all potential lead sources, paint chips and dust would have the greatest impact on the community. Residential renovations involving the removal of paint would result in lead contamination both inside and outside the home. People spend most of their time at home, therefore this source of lead would affect the most individuals.

The residents of Happytown, USA have civic pride. They encourage home improvements to repair older properties to display their pride in their community. This practice has the potential to promote widespread lead contamination both inside and outside of homes and buildings. Due to the necessity of professional lead-based paint removal, this should be extensively incorporated into the development of lead poisoning education. The bulk of the community's residents is of lower socioeconomic standing, making do-it-yourself house renovations quite popular. The normalization of this practice may have an impact on how the hazards of lead poisoning are perceived. Tiro is a type of traditional eye makeup that is popular in the town. Tiro is primarily used by children because they think it makes their eyes look cool. Lead poisoning education must be suitable for children of all ages. Comprehensible education will guarantee that the target audience understands the dangers of lead. Happytown's festive ambiance is emphasized by the distribution of plastic carnival necklaces throughout the town. Children are particularly fond of these toy necklaces. The advertising of toy necklaces may influence people's perceptions of the risks involved. Children are the major consumers of the toys, which might complicate how the hazards associated with them are explained. The design of lead poisoning education must exemplify the reality that pleasant items, such as toys, may be hazardous. Furthermore, since children are at greater risk, this education should be understandable to them.

Cultural competency regarding health education refers to the ability to give effective, high-quality health education to people with diverse perspectives, beliefs, values, and behaviors. This demands the personalization of health education depending on the cultural differences. The cultural factors exhibited in the mock community allow lead poisoning education to be tailored to the specific population. Risk communication is a method of educating individuals about potential hazards to their environment or health (CDC, 2019). Certain risk communication tactics can allow for effective lead poisoning education despite cultural differences. Trust and transparency are two primary risk communication strategies that should always be implemented. Public health officials should prioritize the preservation of trust and transparency when communicating risks. Trust must never be compromised since it may jeopardize the ability to communicate future hazards to the public (CDC, 2019). Transparency is critical to ensuring that the public is always aware of potential threats to their health. These two components trust, and transparency, will ensure Happytown parents are fully aware of the extent of lead exposure in the community. Parents should be able to rely on public health officials when it comes to potential health risks to their children. The Seven Cardinal Rules of Risk Communication by Vincent Covello and Frederick W. Allen are a collection of principles that facilitate effective risk communication (Haddow & Haddow, 2014). One of the Cardinal rules can be very useful in explaining risks to residents. The third rule is to listen to the public's concerns, which emphasizes the value of empathy and competency over data and statistics. People place a higher value on compassion and understanding than on numbers. Since the majority of the town's residents have a lower socioeconomic status, public health professionals should encourage them to express their concerns. Most people who perform their home improvements cannot afford to have it done otherwise. Public health professionals should be compassionate and seek affordable, safer alternatives for them. The use of graphics is one of the most effective ways to communicate risks to especially vulnerable children. Children are not only more sensitive to lead poisoning, but they also have easier access to lead sources within the community. Graphics can illustrate the sources of lead as well as the symptoms associated with lead exposure. These visuals can highlight areas that are difficult to describe with words.

Happytown, USA is a diverse city with affordable housing, good schools, and a strong sense of community. This town may seem like a great location; however, there are several sources of lead exposure. Various beliefs, behaviors, and practices increase the risk of lead poisoning. Risk communication is critical for mitigating the risk of lead poisoning. Lead-based paints in homes and toys pose a significant danger of lead poisoning in the household. Other potential risks stem from this community's traditions, beliefs, and values. Cultural competence and effective risk communication are crucial factors in reducing risks associated with this town's cultural differences.

Reference:

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