

July 26, 2007

Dear Families,

I hope you and your families are enjoying this beautiful summer. We have some news concerning the Child Development Center playground, and we wanted to make sure that you were informed right away.

Last spring, a concerned parent noticed that peeling paint located on the exterior trim of Elliott Hall that borders the CDC playground. Paint chips that appeared to have fallen from Elliott Hall were observed on the ground, typically within 10 feet of the building. Shrubs and bushes planted within 10 feet of the building help to minimize access to this area. As a result of this observation, the College retained Covino Environmental Associates, Inc. to determine whether there was lead in the paint and/or soils in this area.

Analytical results indicate that the concentration of lead in soils at the playground are within acceptable limits; however, lead was detected in various paint chips collected from the playground. Analytical results indicate that the paint chip samples contain between 8.53 and 16.17 percent lead by weight. The US EPA defines a dangerous level of lead in paint as greater than 1 percent by weight. The main concern with lead is with children under the age of 6, who might unknowingly eat paint chips. In addition, one and two year olds, who are at greatest risk for elevated blood lead levels, are closely supervised and spend most of their outside play time in a fully enclosed toddler play yard that is located approximately 40 feet from the building, so they are not in direct contact with the area where the chips were discovered.

Keene State College is planning a multi-step program to address this concern, including:

1. Installation of a four-foot high fence approximately 10 feet from the building around the three sides of the playground that abut the building to limit access to the impacted area. This fence should be installed prior to the opening of the CDC on August 27.
2. A training program for CDC staff and students workers to identify paint chips and how to handle disposal.
3. Regular inspection of the playground to identify and remove any paint chips.
4. Developing a long term strategy to permanently cover or remove lead-based paint from the sides of the building that border the playground. This strategy may include replacing all of the impacted windows and casings and/or covering the lead surfaces with weather resistant material that should be caulked airtight. Removing the loose and flaking paint is not recommended since significant airborne dust and debris would likely result from this process. After the permanent solution is implemented additional ground cover will be spread over

the 10 foot buffer zone (between the building and the fence) to permanently any remaining lead-based paint chips.

5. Reviewing and testing all equipment and products at the CDC to ensure that they are lead-free.

The CDC Community Newsletter will continue to notify families of steps being taken by the College to remedy the conditions that contribute to lead-based paint chips near the play yard.

As you know, the Child Development Center recently completed a multi-staged renovation. This renovation was conducted with the safety of the children in mind, and we are confident that the interior space is free of lead and other environmental hazards.

Nevertheless, while investigating the lead on our playground, we have learned that *many products manufactured overseas are now produced with lead*. For example, there has been recent notification that garden hoses, toys and other products contain lead. With that in mind, we will be reviewing all equipment and products at the CDC to ensure that they are lead-free. Attached is a pamphlet providing you with additional information concerning lead and lead testing. Additional information can be located at the following sites:

<http://www.cpsc.gov>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/>

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/>

We will be holding a **meeting** to answer any questions you might have regarding this issue on **Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, at the CDC**. Sylvie Rice, our Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator will be joining us at this meeting to answer any questions you might have concerning this matter. Please call Ellen at 358-2232 to RSVP.

Please know that our first priority is always to ensure the safety of your children while at the CDC. When your children join us on August 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be ready with safe and clean facilities.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ellsberg Edge  
Director