



Environmental Solutions Group

MOLD and CHILDREN

Why Children are At Risk

- Public schools do not have adequate maintenance budgets to repair leaks & try to save on air conditioning costs, therefore toxic mold is very common in the schools
- Children often spend 6-8 hours a day inside a moldy school building
- According to the EPA, 30% of American homes have a serious mold problem; children may leave a toxic school only to be exposed to more toxic mold at home
- One in four children are genetically disposed to mold poisoning – their bodies simply do not remove toxins effectively

The Warning Signs

Scientists and doctors used to think that molds only affect allergies. We now know that mold toxins effect the nervous system, especially in children. New research indicates that toxic mold exposure causes a variety of reactions in children that are often misdiagnosed as ADD. While allergy symptoms are usually observed first, it is important to know that mold effects the frontal lobe of the brain and hinders many functions. The list below will help you identify if mold could be responsible for behavioral changes in your child (or your child's teachers), especially if there has been water damage at school or a musty odor is noticed at school or home. Here are a few of the changes that may indicate mold exposure:

- Moody & irritable
- New distractability
- Acting eccentrically or impulsively with things that used to be important
- Trouble finishing a task
- Decreased speech speed and smoothness
- Decreased coordination
- New aggressiveness

Who Monitors Schools for Mold Toxins?

The EPA recognizes that indoor mold makes people sick, but the EPA only regulates **outdoor** air. OSHA looks after employers and employees; NIOSH handles federal buildings. Surprisingly, no government agency has the responsibility over the indoor air in our homes and schools. Furthermore, no U.S. government agency has any significant efforts underway to study indoor pollutants that include neurotoxins from common indoor molds.

What Can Parents and Teachers Do?

Be aware that mold toxicity is a very real threat to health. If you suspect mold in your school, insist on mold testing and ask for copies of the lab reports. Have your home tested for toxic mold and if it is detected, ask your doctor to test your blood for levels of MSH hormone. Very low MSH is usually associated with biotoxin exposure.

Sources: "When Traditional Medicine Fails" by Dr. Gary Rosen and Dr. James Schaller, "Is This Your Child's World?" by Dr. Doris Rapp, "Mold Warriors" by Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker

Environmental Solutions Group

338 N. Elm Street | PO Box 9341 | Greensboro NC 27429-0341

Office: 336.373.1538 Mobile: 336.456.3284