

## Toxic Exposures Affecting Children

How children come into contact with toxic chemicals and how their health is affected.

<b>Course #</b>	19FTE
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Moderator(s):</b>	Elizabeth Davis
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Tuesday, 10:00-Noon 10 weeks, starting September 24
<b>Location:</b>	Applewood in Amherst, Lower Meeting Room
<b>Maximum number of participants:</b>	16
<b>Auditors accepted:</b>	Yes, up to 2

**Purpose:** This seminar will explore the world of toxic chemicals that touch children's lives. We will learn how different chemicals affect children's minds and bodies, and many ways of preventing such exposures. We will study existing toxics laws and proposed legislation.

**Description:** We have become increasingly aware that children are exposed to toxic chemicals. How? By the presence of flame retardants in their pajamas, for example. These chemicals were put into their clothing for a good purpose: to prevent children from being burned in a household fire. When testing revealed that these chemicals were absorbed into children's bodies, flame retardants were removed from their clothing.

Some possible topics are: lead as found in peeling paint, water and air pollution; the body burden of toxic chemicals found in all of us; health of children living near agricultural fields subject to pesticide spraying; household dust and crawling infants; chemicals in children's toys, car seats and cribs; effects of living close to freeways or coal power plants; results of laboratory tests on chemicals found in children's bodies; water issues in Flint, Michigan; state and local actions to reduce toxic exposures; Toxic Substances Control Act of 1975 and 2016.

**Role of participants:** Participants will select a topic from a list provided by the moderator, prepare a 20-30-minute presentation on that topic and lead the discussion. The moderator will assist as needed with finding information. Participants are expected to participate in discussions and to follow current events related to toxics issues.

**Resources:** *Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson, will be discussed at the first meeting. Please read it ahead of time. It is short and available online. Two very useful resources for presentations are: Toxic-Free Future ([toxicfreefuture.org](http://toxicfreefuture.org)) and Toxic Action Center ([toxicsaction.org](http://toxicsaction.org)). Newspapers, magazines, and on-line materials are excellent resources for following current events relating to toxic chemicals.

**About the Moderator:** The moderator worked on toxics issues with the Washington Toxics Coalition, in Olympia, Washington, for many years. She has been a member of LIR for five years; this is her first time moderating.