



SAFE SITING OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES



FACTOR TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A SAFE SITE FOR A CHILD CARE FACILITY--FORMER USE OF SITE

Determine whether or not harmful chemicals were ever made, used or dumped at or near the site. If it is found that the area was ever exposed to harmful chemicals in the past, the next step is to ensure that these chemicals were cleaned up properly and that they no longer exist in the area. Contact your state health department for clean-up records. If no cleaning process took place, it is best to not use this area or building for your child care center.

FACTOR TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A SAFE SITE FOR A CHILD CARE FACILITY--NEARBY SITE/ACTIVITIES

Find out if there are businesses or manufacturers that are currently using harmful chemicals near the site of interest by contacting your state health department. Even if there are no toxic chemicals on the site itself, children can still be exposed to chemicals that are being used or produced nearby through the air or through the water source in the area.



FACTOR TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A SAFE SITE FOR A CHILD CARE FACILITY--NATURALLY OCCURRING POLLUTION & SAFE DRINKING WATER

Check that the site is not at increased risk for natural contaminants such as radon or arsenic. Contact your state health department to find out about area contaminants.

Ensure that the drinking water that will be consumed in the facility is safe and free from contaminants such as lead and pesticides. Contact your local water utility to learn of any contaminants of concern.

If you get your water from a private well you should test for contamination based on contaminants likely to be found in your area.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFE SITING OF CHILD CARE CENTERS?

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has created the **Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education** program (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/index.html>) to encourage consideration about where to locate child care facilities. It offers towns, cities, and states guidance on how to adopt practices that will make sure child care facilities are located away from chemical hazards.

The **Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education Guidance Manual**

(https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/cspece_guidance/index.html) offers tools to help state and local public health agencies and other partners build safe siting programs in their communities and encourages child care providers to consider environmental hazards when locating early learning facilities.

Note: Child care facilities should follow all state and local licensing regulations and consider the elements of safe siting when choosing a location for their facility.



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