

**September 2017**

*Jason, Ilse and Fairyland FCC children gather for an EHCC photo holding their certificate!*

This edition of the *Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) Spotlight Series* highlights *Fairyland Family Child Care (Fairyland FCC)*, located in Sandy, Utah.

*Fairyland FCC* is owned and directed by Ilse Wilson who was recommended for the *Provider Spotlight Series* by the Chief Executive Officer of the [National Association of Family Child Care](#). Ms. Wilson first began caring for and educating children when she worked as a nanny in Germany; she then founded her child care facility in 2010. She has been a longtime supporter of creating eco-healthy learning environments for children. When initially applying for the EHCC endorsement, it was clear that she was already implementing many of the checklist items such as washing all fruits and vegetables from the *Fairyland FCC* garden to avoid possible pesticide exposure. However, she also noted several eco-healthy practices that weren't yet in place, and thus opportunities for improvement.

Since becoming EHCC endorsed in June 2017, Ms. Wilson and her staff have actively worked to continuously comply with all 30 items on the [EHCC checklist](#). This is above and beyond what is required by the EHCC program, as facilities can attain their endorsement when only complying with 24 of the 30 best practices. Some examples of the EHCC checklist standards that they weren't yet meeting, included: having a rough mat at the entrance of *Fairyland FCC* to reduce tracking in lead-contaminated soil; screening toys for lead by searching [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), and securely storing and recycling all used batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs. Hence, these changes were made immediately. She purchased a rough mat, and after screening their toys for lead, she began purchasing new wooden toys that do not contain lead or phthalates. Specifically, soft plastic toys such as beach balls and rubber duckies were removed from the classrooms and

vinyl/PVC containing teethers were replaced with silicone teethers. In addition, Ms. Wilson replaced plastic children's dishes with bamboo fiber bowls, steel cups and glass containers for food storage.

One of the unique qualities of *Fairyland FCC* is that their director promotes EHCC practices and resources beyond the walls of her child care facility. As a continuing education trainer for the Department of Health within the Office of Child Care, Ms. Wilson finds ways to include EHCC resources and best practice suggestions into the courses that are offered. Her goal is to assist other child care professionals in understanding the importance of reducing children's exposures to environmental health hazards, and that even simple and inexpensive changes make a true difference.

Ms. Wilson also aims to have an impact on the health of each child's individual home by ensuring that both parents and children are well informed about the strategies and benefits of creating an eco-healthy environment. While the [EHCC Fact Sheets](#) are posted on the walls, parents are also given printed versions so that they can read them more comprehensively when time allows. Ms. Wilson takes pride in her smaller child care program of 22 children, because having fewer families to connect with affords her the ability to speak with each of them 1 on 1 about the benefits of being eco-healthy. She shares, "The eco-healthy changes that we make in our program trickle down to impact the children and their families too!" She encourages the children to recycle, set the table with glasses and bamboo bowls as well as explain how their actions are beneficial to their growing bodies, brains, and the environment!

*Fairyland FCC* has worked diligently to foster a healthy learning environment for the children they care for and these efforts have not gone unnoticed. When Ms. Wilson was awarded the *2016 Early Childhood Teacher of the Year Award* by the [Utah Association for the Education of Young Children](#), more families than she could accommodate sought out her child care. *Fairyland FCC* is constantly full as the demand for eco-healthy child cares grow. They are currently expanding their child care brand to include additional locations in Millcreek and Alta, UT!

From providing fresh organic foods and using 3rd party certified eco-healthy cleaning products, such as [ECOLOGO](#) and [Green Seal](#), to inspiring others to be eco-healthy, Ms. Wilson leads *Fairyland FCC* in fostering and protecting the minds and bodies of young children. We are very pleased to spotlight [Fairyland FCC](#) for all that they are doing to keep children healthy!

If you would like to become an EHCC endorsed provider, or be considered for the EHCC Provider Spotlight Series, please visit [www.cehn.org/ehcc](http://www.cehn.org/ehcc).