



ECO-HEALTHY CHILD CARE®

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN CHILD CARE

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY INITIATIVE

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Eco-Healthy Child Care® is an award winning and science-based program of the **Children's Environmental Health Network**. It is the only national environmental health endorsement program for early care & education providers. Eco-Healthy Child Care® partners with child care professionals to reduce environmental hazards such as poor indoor air quality, pesticides, lead & unsafe plastics found in & around child care facilities.

- Creating safer & healthier early learning environments is key to protecting the well-being of our nation's children & child care providers.
- Science links environmental hazards found in child care settings to allergies, asthma, developmental disabilities, & cancer.
- Children are at greater risk since their bodies are still developing & because of increased exposures due to certain behaviors (e.g. mouthing objects or crawling on the floor).

Supporting the Local Community

Participate in a small Indoor Air Quality data collection project and receive **FREE HEPA air filters, FREE professional development, and FREE technical assistance.**

Eco-Healthy Child Care® Endorsement

We offer a 2-year endorsement to child care facilities (both center and family child care) that qualify as "Eco-Healthy" by complying with 30 of 35 simple, free or low-cost environmental health best practices.

Driving the Market for Environmentally healthy Child Care

Eco-Healthy Child Care® endorsed child care facilities are featured on our **provider map**. These programs are leading the industry, & going above & beyond required child care regulations to protect the health of staff & children within their care.

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Monitoring Initiative

Licensed child care facilities are invited to be involved in our Environmental health in Child Care, Improving Air Quality initiative. Participating facilities will receive:

- **\$1000 in mini-grant funds** for environmental health related resources at your facility (i.e. replacing harmful plastics, purchasing new cleaning supplies, HVAC tune-up).
- **FREE HEPA air filters** distributed to participating facilities that providers can keep after data collection as well as **results on indoor air quality** data collection and assistance with actionable strategies for mitigating airborne contaminants.
- Technical assistance for **Eco-Healthy Child Care® Endorsement application, fee waived.**
- **FREE on-line professional development** with adult learning clock hours.

Benefits of Being an Eco-Healthy Child Care® Endorsed Facility

- Communicates high quality care to families.
- Access to free environmental health resources.
- Free marketing--use of EHCC logo and provider **Spotlight** articles.
- Cost savings from eliminating unnecessary harmful products, e.g. air fresheners or pesticides.
- Healthier and more resilient child care staff (e.g. less sick days) due to fewer exposures to environmental hazards.

Eco-Healthy Child Care®'s Resources

- **Fact Sheets in English/Spanish**, covering 17 environmental health topics (e.g., air quality, and built environment).
- **Eco-Healthy Child Care® Checklist in English/Spanish**, 35 low-cost, science-based best practices for eliminating environmental hazards in child care facilities.
- **FAQs in English/Spanish**, (e.g. sunscreen, bug repellent, etc.)
- **Protecting Children's Environmental Health E-Course**, The course is approved for adult learning clock hours in most states & is available in English/Spanish.

Systems Impact

Eco-Healthy Child Care® has embedded environmental health-related best practices & policies into child care systems:

- National Child Care Accreditation Standards:
 - National Association for the Education of Young Children
 - Association for Early Learning Leaders
- National Child Care Health & Safety Standards:
 - National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education
- State Quality Rating Improvement Systems
 - Maryland
 - Pennsylvania
 - Utah
- State Child Care Licensing:
 - Minnesota (in progress)



**Eco-Healthy
Child Care®**