



Eco-Healthy Child Care

Eco-Healthy Child Care ensures early childhood learning environments are as healthy, safe and green as possible by reducing children's exposure to toxic chemicals.

About the Eco-Healthy Child Care Program

Eco-Healthy Child Care (EHCC)

EHCC is a national program that seeks to improve the environmental health of children by partnering with child care professionals to eliminate or reduce environmental health hazards found in child care facilities. Originally created by the Oregon Environmental Council in 2005, EHCC is now managed by Children's Environmental Health Network. EHCC supports child care providers as they make simple choices that benefit the health and well-being of all children in their care. The program offers free training, technical assistance, resources, marketing and an endorsement. By reducing exposure to toxics, the program creates healthier environments in and around child care facilities, and in doing so, it creates healthier kids.

Specific objectives include:

- ◆ Educating child care providers on how to provide environmentally healthy settings and services.
- ◆ Assisting in implementation of changes in practices and purchasing.
- ◆ Promoting endorsed facilities to parents via our website, earned media and paid advertisements.
- ◆ Through this promotion, CEHN and OEC aim to improve and stabilize the revenue streams of Eco-Healthy Child Care facilities and ultimately, the quality of these facilities.

This program emphasizes low- to no-cost solutions to common environmental health hazards and empowers providers to maximize their children's potential.

Program Highlights

The 28-member EHCC National Advisory Committee (NAC) supports the development and growth of this national program. The NAC includes representatives from the National Association for Child Care Resource and Referral, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Head Start Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, US General Services Administration, Institute for Children's Environmental Health, among others.

- ◆ More than 1,450 facilities, serving over 59,000 children within 47 states, 3 Canadian provinces, four Australian states and Puerto Rico have qualified as Eco-Healthy
- ◆ EHCC has trained over 2,000 child care providers, trainers, directors, administrators and child care consultants
- ◆ Over 24,000 unique visitors viewed our website seeking information about Eco-Healthy Child Care in 2009
- ◆ Recipient of the US Environmental Protection Agency's 2006 Children's Environmental Health Excellence Award
- ◆ Recipient of the 2010 Childcare and School IPM Recognition Award from the IPM Institute of North America, Inc.
- ◆ Visit www.oconline.org/ehcc for more information.

EHCC covers the following content areas: Pesticides and Pest Prevention, Air Quality, Household Chemicals, Lead, Mercury, Furniture and Carpets, Art Supplies, Plastics and Plastic Toys, Treated Playground Equipment, Recycling and Garbage Storage, Radon and Education and Awareness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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