



Integrated Pest Management/Pesticides: Example Policy

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?: It is an effective and environmentally sensitive way to control pests and weeds. IPM works to identify and correct pest-friendly conditions, eliminating access to food, water and shelter by improving sanitation, maintenance and landscape management practices. By correcting the conditions that lead to pest problems and using approved pesticides only when necessary, IPM provides more effective pest control while reducing pesticide use

Why do we have an Integrated Pest Management Policy: Children are more vulnerable to the negative effects of pesticides and they may be exposed to these toxic chemicals by playing on floors, lawns, playground equipment, and/or within gardens; and eating pesticide-treated foods. Even low levels of pesticide exposure are a threat to young developing bodies. Reducing the use of pesticides in our child care facility benefits children, teachers and custodial staff, especially those with asthma and other environmentally-related illnesses and sensitivities. Using safer pest management practices will also help create healthier learning environments.

The purpose of our Integrated Pest Management Policy: is to reduce the presence of harmful pests and to minimize exposure to toxic pesticides within and around our child care facility, so as to protect the health and safety of children and staff.

Our pest management policy ensures that we:

- ✓ Regularly monitor in and around our facility to identify pest problems.
- ✓ Prevent pest problems by removing pest's food, water, and shelter.
- ✓ Use non-chemical/mechanical management practices (i.e., caulking pest entry points) to address pest problems when necessary.
- ✓ Hire a certified pest management professional that uses Integrated Pest Management practices as a first resort.
- ✓ Train staff and parents on Integrated Pest Management practices.
- ✓ Use least-hazardous pesticides as a last resort, after non-chemical management practices have been tried and found to be unsuccessful.
- ✓ If using pesticides:
 - Do not use flea bombs or other "bug bombs" or "foggers."
 - Notify families and staff in advance about the timing and location of pesticide applications and what product(s) will be used.
 - Ensure that pesticides are not applied when children are present; confirm that children will not have exposure to the application area for *at least* 12 hours.
 - Do not apply pesticides in places where children sleep and play.

Pesticide and IPM Resources

- Healthy Child Care – US Environmental Protection Agency- IPM Training
www2.epa.gov/childcare/training-and-curriculum-resources-healthy-child-care-providers
- IPM Toolkit for Early Care and Education Programs (Free!): www.cchp.ucsf.edu/ipm
- Certified Pest Management Professionals:
 - o Green Shield Certified www.greenshieldcertified.org
 - o Green Pro www.npmagreenpro.org
 - o Eco-Wise www.ecowisecertified.org