

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS IN CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND PRESCHOOLS (HECCP)

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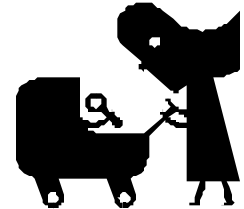


CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK (CEHN)



Our mission:

To protect the fetus and the child from environmental hazards and promote a healthy environment.

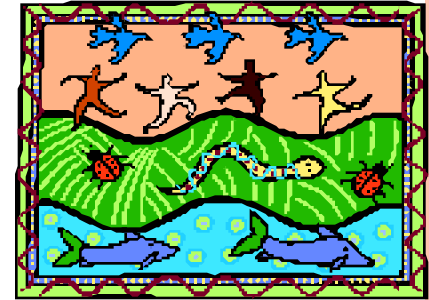


Our Goals:

- 1) Promote the development of a sound public health and child-focused national **policy**; with an emphasis on children most at risk;
- 2) Elevate public **awareness** of environmental hazards to children;
- 3) **Educate** health professionals, policy makers, and community members in preventive strategies; and
- 4) Stimulate prevention-oriented **research**



WHY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH?



- Exposure to the more well-published environmental hazards like **lead, tobacco smoke, pesticides** only represent a **fraction** of the toxicants in our environment.



- 70,000 chemicals that are commonly used are **not adequately tested** for their impact on human health.



- We spend up to **90% of our time indoors**. Not only do we have to worry about outdoor air pollution but also indoor air quality.

- We are **constantly exposed** to potentially hazardous chemicals wherever we are.



HEALTH EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

- Poor Air Quality: traffic pollutants, mold, smoking
 - Headaches, breathing difficulties, severe asthma symptoms, allergy reactions
- Chemicals from art supplies, cleaning products, pesticides
 - Irritation to eyes, ears, nose and throat, exposure to heavy metals, affect brain development
- Radon
 - Leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers
- Lead
 - Decreased IQ, increased learning disabilities
- Mercury
 - Affects brain development



WHY FOCUS ON CHILDREN?



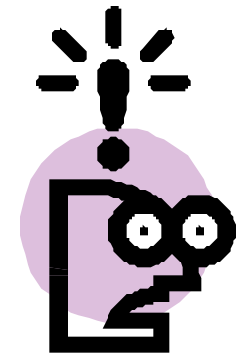
Children are **particularly vulnerable** to environmental hazards because :

- Still **growing and developing**
- **Cannot metabolize toxins** as well as adults.
- Breathe up to **twice** as much air as adults
- **Crawl** on the floor and put things they pick up in their **mouths**
- Chemicals are **not adequately regulated** for their impact on children



KEY OPPORTUNITY

- **60 % of the children** below age 6 are enrolled at licensed and unlicensed **childcare and preschools facilities**, spending up to 40 hours per week.
- Apart from overall licensing requirements for safety measures, **child care providers and staff do not receive specific training around environmental health threats.**
- Most states **do not require** providers to have **Early Childhood Education Pre-service Qualifications.**
- Only 12 states require **environmental tests** for lead, asbestos and radon in child care centers.



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR PRESCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE SETTING (HECCP)

- A pilot program in California's Alameda and Contra Costa counties
- Trained child care providers and administrators to:
 - Identify environmental hazards,
 - Remove/alleviate environmental hazards, and
 - Identify useful resources and contacts for support.
- Over 100 child care providers trained in February 2006



HECCP IN ATLANTA, GA

- Audience:

Child care providers, preschool teachers,
and facility administrators



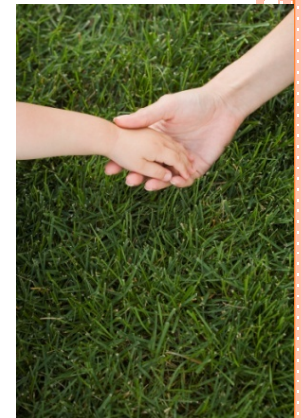
- Teaching modules:

- Air Quality, Motor Vehicle Diesel, Radon
- Built Environment, Indoor Mold, Asbestos, Arsenic, Lead, Mercury, Physical Education and Nutrition, Noise Pollution
- Chemicals in Art Supplies, Safe Cleaning Alternatives, Pesticides and Integrated Pesticide Management



HECCP TRAINING

- 2.5 - 3 hours
- Children's environmental health 101:
 - children's vulnerabilities
 - why our focus on child care centers
- Introduction to the education modules in the training packet
 - radon test kit demonstration - EPA Region IV
 - list of local contacts and national organizations
- Question and Answer
 - A staff member from the Bright From The Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning will be present to assist with licensing related questions.
- Pre/Post Assessments and Evaluation



PROGRESS OF HECCP IN GEORGIA

- Began in October 2006
- Established a local Atlanta Advisory Team
- 70 child care resource and referral agencies, Head Start programs, and preschools recruited
- Organized the extensive peer-review process of the 14 education modules
- Currently,
 - Submitting application to the Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development System for licensing credits.
 - Training in GA will begin winter 2008.
 - Received grant from CDC to expand the program Washington, DC (2007-2010)





Any Questions for
me?

