Environmental Health in Early Care and Education Settings

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Presenter Disclosures

Marilyn J. Krajicek
The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

Mission

To improve the quality of out-of-home child care and early education programs and support the health and safety of the children they serve.
The NRC supports the efforts of:

- National and state collaboratives
- Early childhood comprehensive systems
- State child care regulatory agencies
- State and local health departments
- Policymakers
- Child care resource and referral
- Early Head Start and Head Start programs
- Child care providers/family child care homes
- Home visitors
- Early educators
- Families/parents/guardians
- Child care health consultants

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition (CFOC3)

Caring for Our Children
National Health and Safety Performance Standards for Early Care and Education Programs

- 3rd edition revision completed and published in June 2011
- 4-year revision process
- 10 Technical Panels - 85 panel members - Content Experts from AAP, APHA, and subject specialists

Key Partners in Development of Standards

Collaboration of 4 groups
Group 1: Partners
APHA, AAP, NRC, MCHB
Group 2: Steering Committee
Group 3: Technical Panels
10 panels, 80+ technical experts
Group 4: Stakeholders
80+ individuals & organizations
Caring for Our Children: Environmental Health in Early Care and Education

Why focus on children’s environmental health?
Children are not just “little adults”.

- They crawl on the floor, put things in their mouths, and have faster respiratory rates.
- All of their systems (nervous, reproductive, hormonal) are still growing and developing.


Why focus on early care and education?
- Every day, approximately 11 million children under the age of 5 in the U.S. attend early care and education programs.
- An average of 36 hours per week is spent in these programs.

Caring for Our Children: Environmental Health in Early Care and Education

The Purpose

- Represents best practices determined by research or expert consensus that will ensure an environmentally-healthy early care and education program
- A subset of 123 standards and 9 appendices from Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition
- Intended Audience

Caring for Our Children: Environmental Health in Early Care and Education

How were CFOC3 standards chosen?

Question: If the standard is not followed, would the resulting harm be considered the result of:

a) an environmental health incident (e.g., a chemical or allergen exposure, noise level);

b) a physical injury (e.g., a fall); or

c) an infectious agent (bacteria, virus)?

Caring for Our Children: Environmental Health in Early Care and Education

How was the collection developed?

- Created initial list of CFOC3 standards and introduction in partnership with CEHN;
- Contacted CFOC3 EH Technical Panel Chair and NRC Steering Committee for initial review of standards chosen;
- Determined stakeholder reviewers and requested feedback;
How was the collection developed?

- Reviewed and approved by CFOSC Steering Committee;
- Posted document to NRC Website at end of July; and
- Marketed via social media, E-Resources and "What's New" for August on the NRC website.

How can this collection be used?

- Assess the early care and education environment;
- Create an action plan to address areas of concern; and
- Share information with parents/guardians.

Successes of the Collaboration

- Utilized expertise of Eco-Healthy Child Care® and CEHN staff;
- Accessed networks of both organizations to expand reach of collection; and
- Explored future collaboration opportunities.
All CFOC3-based collections are available on the NRC website.

http://nrckids.org/ Under “Products”

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition [CFOC3]

The CFOC3 Database

http://cfoc.nrckids.org/

Thanks to:

- American Public Health Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Maternal and Child Health Bureau
- Eco-Healthy Child Care® and CEHN
- 20 reviewers from 17 organizations
- YOU!
Contact Information

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CFOC3 Database: http://cfo3.nrckids.org
E-Resources: Email info@nrckids.org with “Subscribe” as subject

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