Follow these instructions to get started on going green!

1. Answer all 30 questions on the checklist.
2. Comply with at least 24 of 30 items (blue buttons) and #11 and #12 which are REQUIRED.
3. If you can’t answer “true” to 24 items, take steps to improve your environment. Visit www.cehn.org/ehcc for tools and guidelines.
4. Fill out all parts of the Environment Form, sign it, plus #25, and obtain both required signatures.
5. Send the completed checklist and #25 signatures to the address indicated.


Pesticides and Pest Prevention

1. We use non-toxic techniques both inside and outside the facility to prevent and control pests (both insects and weeds) and do not use pesticides that remain in pesticide application is the only viable option; parents are notified in advance and a licensed professional applies the least toxic, effective product at a time when children will not be exposed to the application area for at least 12 hours (see manufacturer’s instructions to ensure 12 hours is enough).

2. We thoroughly wash all fruits and vegetables to avoid possible exposure to pesticides, and we take the opportunity to educate children about the importance of doing so.

Air Quality

3. We avoid conditions that lead to excess moisture, because moisture contributes to the growth of mold and mold spores.
4. We maintain adequate ventilation (suitable fans or open screened windows).
5. We repair water leaks and keep humidity within a desirable range (30-50%).
6. We do not allow cars or other vehicles to idle in our designated parking areas.
7. We do not use aerosol sprays of any kind.
8. We use chlorine bleach only when and where it is required or recommended by state and local authorities. We use it prudently and never use more than necessary.
9. We do not use aerosol sprays of any kind.
10. We use only low-VOC household paints and do not paint when children are present.

Lead

11. We avoid possible lead exposure from water sources, we use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. We run the water for 10-30 seconds or until it feels noticeably colder.
12. Our facility was built after 1978 (after lead paint was banned) — OR — the facility was built before 1978, but we keep the building free of paint and regularly wash all areas around doors and windows. We used safe practices when removing lead-based paint or when renovating our facility, and we have visited www.epa.gov/lead/downloads/leadedpaint-safe-practices.pdf.
13. To avoid possible lead exposure, we do not use imported, old or handmade pottery to cook, serve food or drinks.
14. To reduce possible exposure to lead-contaminated dirt, we supply a rough mat at the entrance of our facility and encourage the wiping of shoes before entering — or we are a shoe-free facility.
15. We check our facility twice a year for lead by a certified tester by searching www.healthylifepro.org or by purchasing lead testing kits at a local home improvement store.

Mercury

16. We do not use any mercury-containing thermometers or thermostats. Instead, we use digital options.
17. We securely store and recycle all used batteries and fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs.
18. For proper disposal of mercury-containing thermometers, fluorescent, mercury-filled light bulbs, batteries, please visit www.earth911.org/search to find a nearby hazardous waste recycling facility.

Furniture and Carpets

19. We avoid possible exposure to flame retardants, we ensure furniture is in good condition without foam or petrochemicals.
20. We do not have professionally installed wall-to-wall carpeting where children are present.
21. Area rugs are vacuumed daily and cleaned at least twice a year using biodegradable cleaners.

Art Supplies

22. We use only non-toxic art supplies approved by the Art and Creative Materials Institute (ACMI). Look for ACMI non-toxic seal “AP” at www.acmie.org.

Plastics and Plastic Toys

23. We avoid toys made of soft plastic vinyl (such as vinyl dolls, beach balls, and “rubber ducky” chew toys). Instead, we buy toys listed as “PVC-free.”
24. When using mobiles, we never leave children’s toys in plastic containers, plastic wrap or plastic bags.
25. We never use baby bottles or sippy cups made of hard clear plastic (bottles labeled #7).

Recycling and Garbage Storage

26. We recycle paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum and plastic bottles.
27. We keep our garbage covered at all times to avoid attracting pests and to minimize odors.

Education and Awareness

28. We use biodegradable, non-toxic cleaning products and least-toxic disinfecting and sanitizing products.
29. We do not use aerosol sprays of any kind.
30. We use chlorine bleach only when and where it is required or recommended by state and local authorities. We use it prudently and never use more than necessary.

Lawn and Landscape

31. We do not use playground equipment made of treated wood — or — if we do, apply 2 coats of waterproof stain or sealant at least once a year.

Radon

32. We have properly installed radon test kits at a local home improvement store.

For more information, please visit us online at www.cehn.org/ehcc.
Endorsement
Checklist

Easy to follow steps for
child care providers to go green

As an Eco-Healthy Child Care®
provider you will:

• be healthier, safer and more environmentally friendly
• help prevent illnesses, diseases and disabilities linked to chemicals of concern
• receive materials to promote your eco-healthy practices to parents and the community
• be listed on the Eco-Healthy Child Care® website and potentially receive media publicity
• get tips on how to continue to "green" your child care facility

Research increasingly shows that the first years of a child’s life are critical to shaping their future health and development. As a child care provider, small changes you make can have a big impact on the children in your care. By reducing toxins, you help prevent illnesses like asthma, certain learning disabilities and even some forms of cancer. Learn more at www.cehn.org/ehcc.

Thank you for taking steps to make your child care program Eco-Healthy!

Go Green. Be Eco-Healthy!

Endorsement Form cont...