Webinars
Series of scientific webinars that provide a forum for discourse on scientific issues.
Live and On-Demand
Case Conferences
Journal Clubs
Grand Rounds
CE Available

Online Courses
Evidence-based online courses on a variety of children's environmental health topics.
Interactive and Self-Paced
CE Available

Resource Catalog
Fact sheets, journal publications, reports, and other resources for parents, community members, patients and healthcare professionals
Topics included:
Air Quality, Pesticides, Natural Disasters, BPA, Mold, Lead, Mercury
Eco-Healthy Child Care®
Development, Partners, Progress

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Executive Director
CEHN
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Disclaimers
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Learning Objectives

- Describe the current state of environmental health considerations in child care
- Identify core components of the Eco-Healthy Child Care® program and related endorsement
- Discuss current initiatives and voluntary state programs available to child care providers
Our mission:

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

Our work:

• Promote preventive research
• Promote sound policies
• Educate
• Celebrating 25+ years!
Child Care

- ~13,000,000 children in child care nationally
- Spend Up to 10 hr/day, 5 days/week
Children have higher exposures to some toxicants than adults due to:

- Lower to the ground
- Crawling
- Hand-to-mouth behavior
- Eating, drinking, & breathing more
- Lack of control over their environment
Children’s Exposure in Child Care

While in child care children can be exposed to:

- Harsh chemicals found in cleaning products.
- Dust, dirt, and dander trapped in wall to wall carpet.
- Lead from dust, soil, water, certain art supplies, and toys.
- Flame retardants from nap mats and/or other furniture.
Few EH issues addressed by:

- Licensing Regulations
- Professional development
- Accreditation Standards
- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems
• Already burdened
• Funds are limited
• High staff turnover
• Care about their children
• Looking for competitive advantages; market differentiation

• Therefore, we created EHCC: Practical, easy, inexpensive steps
Creating Eco-Healthy Child Care®

- Identified an information gap
- Assessment of common environmental health hazards
  - Center-based, Family Child Care
  - Head Start and Early Head Start
- Determined best practice science based recommendations
Sixteen Topics

- Pest control
- Air quality
- Household chemicals
- Lead
- Mercury
- Furniture and Carpets
- Art Supplies
- Plastics and Plastic Toys
- Arsenic
- Radon
- Garbage & recycling
- Noise Pollution
- The Built Environment
- Making Celebrations Healthier
- Asbestos
- Improving Nutrition/Promoting Exercise
Agency Representatives:
- ATSDR, Region 1
- MCHB, Child, Adolescent and Family Health
- EPA Office of Children’s Health Protection

Environmental Health Leaders:
- Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders
- Center for Environmental Research and Children’s Health
- Environmental Law Institute
- Children’s Environmental Health Network

State Representatives:
- California Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- Child Care Resources Inc. (North Carolina)
- Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (Colorado)
- Southern Adirondack Child Care Network (New York)
EHCC Partners, Continued

Child Care Accreditation Representatives:
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Association for Early Learning Leaders
- National Association for Family Child Care

National Child Care Leaders:
- National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education
- Child Care Aware of America
- APHA, Maternal & Child Health Section
- National Association for Regulatory Administration
- GSA - Child Care Operations
- Bright Horizons Family Solutions
EHCC Program Provides

Eco-Healthy Child Care® helps early childhood learning environments to be as healthy, safe and green as possible by reducing children’s exposure to toxic chemicals.

Resources (Fact Sheets, FAQs, Checklist)

Endorsement, 2 years

Technical assistance (phone, email, webinars)

Training (in person, online and webinars)

Markets EHCC-endorsed child care facilities
Checklist/Endorsement

- Electronic and hard copy
- Complete checklist
  - meet 24 of 30 standards
  - 3 are mandatory
- Certify answers (outside signature)
- Agree to “quality control” walk thru

www.cehn.org/ehcc
Train the Trainer (TtT)

**Audience:**
- High level child care professionals

**For Each Topic:**
- Health effects of concern
- Where toxicant is found
- Free/low-cost steps to protect children
- Resources

**Available in:** English and Spanish

*More than 99% of participants reported that they would recommend the training to their colleagues!*
After the Training:

Next Steps for TtT participants:

• Offer 2 trainings within 18 months of having participated in the in-person TtT course
• Provide TA to providers within local community
• Encourage facilities to become EHCC endorsed

Establish a working relationship:

• Partner to distribute checklists - CCR&Rs, Site Visits, Trainings
• Monthly trainer/provider emails and updates
• Technical assistance - phone/email
Online Course

3 hour e-learning course

15 modules
• 12 core content modules
• 3 evaluation modules (pre/post test and knowledge check)
Seltenrich N, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, May 2013

**Environmental Exposures in the Context of Child Care**

Just beyond the front door of the Montessori School at Five Canyons, a square glass-walled foyer is brimming with verdant houseplants in clay pots. Garden sculptures and glassed ceramic art are interspersed throughout. Above it all, the tinged sound of softly chirping birds. This lush tableau provides a fitting transition between the world outside and the carefully controlled atmosphere within, whose child care director, Malin Van Crogen, has made environmental health one of her top priorities.

The school serves 120 toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarteners in Castro Valley, California. Within its five classrooms, most toys and seminars are made of wood, glass, or stainless steel. Ample windows welcome natural light and permit cross-ventilation on warmer days. The
- Environmental health standards lag behind schools
- Fractured regulatory landscape
- Challenge to educate providers
- Environmental health laws are scarce
Exciting Initiatives & Progress
Reducing Environmental Exposures in Child Care Facilities

A Review of State Policy

Environmental Law Institute

January 2015
General Findings – State Laws and Regulations

- A variety of policies – within & outside the child care licensing system
- Only a few states address all EH issues covered in the report
- No states addresses all issues comprehensively
- All states can benefit from reviewing their policies & identifying priority issues
- New policies should address financial and technical capacity needed
Voluntary Initiatives

- Licensing is “the floor”
- Quality Improvement’ (QRIS, QRIP) are the ceiling: voluntary state programs
- “Stars” to programs/providers who meet requirements
- Increasing pressure on states to create QRISs
- [http://qrisnetwork.org/](http://qrisnetwork.org/)
Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

Current Status of QRIS in States

- Stateswide
- Counties/Localities/Regions
- Pilot
- Planning
- Requires Legislative Action to Implement a QRIS

www.qrisnetwork.org
Early Childhood Programs

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Facts
- Eco-Healthy Child Care® and PA Reference Pages
- Professional development
- Environmental health partners

FACTS

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Council on Environmental Health, children should not be treated as “little adults”. Because of a child’s small body size, they take in or absorb more environmental hazards found indoors (or outdoors) than do adults.

- Children have unique vulnerabilities that make them more susceptible...
Maryland QRIS

Maryland *Excels* Eco-Friendly Achievement Program

- “Eco-Friendly” achievement badge for promoting nature and/or protecting children’s environmental health
- Licensed child care facilities
  - Children’s Environmental Health Network - Eco-Healthy Child Care®
  - Maryland Green Schools
  - National Arbor Foundation - Nature Explore Program
  - National Wildlife Federation - Eco-School Program
National Association for the Education of Young Children

- Over 80,000 members
- Over 8,000 accredited early childhood programs
- 5 year accreditation
- Standards & criteria - now include EH content (as of Spring 2017)
Over 1500 member programs

- Over 900 accredited (valid 3 years)
- Impacts over 186,000 children

Membership, Professional Development Opportunities, and Resources

Accreditation Manual - health and safety standards are aligned with EHCC endorsement checklist criteria

EHCC resources added to Membership benefits
Healthy Child Care

Because of their size, stage of development, and behavior, children are at greater risk than adults for adverse health effects caused by exposure to indoor air pollutants. This site presents providers, parents and government agencies with resources to identify and reduce children’s exposure to pollutants that may be present in child care facilities.

For Providers

- Training and Curriculum Resources
- Checklists and Tools
- Information for Providers about Specific Environmental Health Issues in Child-Care Settings

For Parents

- Information for Parents about Specific Environmental Health Issues in Child-Care Settings

Green Cleaning Webinar

Thank you for joining us for the Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting: A Toolkit for Early Care and Education (74 pp, 5 MB, About PDF) webinar. For more information, contact Margot Brown.

Quiz Yourself!

Lead-based paint was used in how many homes before it was banned in 1978?
Awards:
• 2013 Innovation Award from the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
• 2009-2010 Childcare and School IPM Recognition Award
• 2006 national recognition award from the U.S. EPA

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• Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
• US Environmental Protection Agency
• North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action
• US Environmental Protection Agencies: Regions 3, 6, 8
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PEHSU National Classroom

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www.pehsu.net/nationalclassroom.html