



#### Location & Outdoor Maintenance

- \_\_\_ Facility is not located in a high-traffic area or next to a truck or bus depot or parking facility
- \_\_\_ Facility has a "No Idling" policy for cars and buses dropping off and picking up children
- \_\_\_ Facility is not located near a dry cleaning store, auto body shop or other business utilizing hazardous, volatile chemicals
- \_\_\_ Facility is not in close proximity to a designated brown field site
- \_\_\_ Facility is not in close proximity to wireless antennas or cell phone towers
- \_\_\_ Facility employs a pesticide-free maintenance program for playgrounds and all outdoor green spaces
- \_\_\_ Facility is not located near agricultural lands, parks or right-of-ways that utilize pesticides
- \_\_\_ Facility does not have artificial turf fields or recycled tire playground surfaces (mats or loose mulch)
- \_\_\_ Facility has no playground equipment or picnic tables made from wood treated with CCA (i.e., pressure-treated wood)

Daycare centers and pre-K education environments embrace and nurture our youngest and most vulnerable children, and we naturally assume that they are safe places, free from harmful exposures of any kind. However, a recent study shows that many early childhood facilities have unhealthy levels of pesticides, formaldehyde, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other toxic chemicals. Air and dust samples taken at each of 40 separate facilities showed levels of contaminants that exceeded both federal and state guidelines.

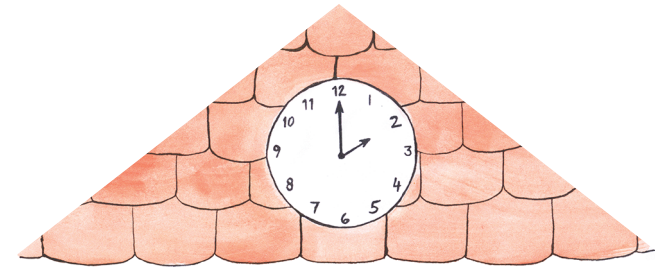
This checklist was created to help you make an informed decision about where your child will be spending time so you can ensure his or her safety.



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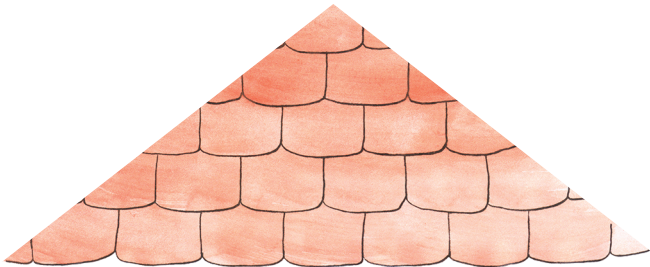
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## The Green Checklist for Childcare Facilities

A guide for parents  
and caregivers





### Indoor Procedures and Maintenance

- \_\_\_ Facility follows a non-toxic pest management policy for indoor pest control
- \_\_\_ Facility has no visible mold and regularly inspects plumbing, ceilings and roof for leaks to prevent mold growth
- \_\_\_ Facility has no surfaces (including radiators) painted with lead-based paint (facilities built before 1978 are more likely to have used these paints)
- \_\_\_ Facility does not have PVC flooring or other PVC products in areas where children play
- \_\_\_ Slip-proof cotton or wool area rugs are used where there are hardwood or tile floors
- \_\_\_ Wall to wall carpeting is no-VOC type with no-VOC type padding and adhesives. Newly installed carpet is allowed to outgas in well-ventilated rooms before children use or re-enter the facility
- \_\_\_ The main room utilized by children has at least one operating window for fresh air circulation
- \_\_\_ Facility does not have a wireless transmitter (router) in rooms that are utilized by children
- \_\_\_ Facility has tested negative for the presence of radon

### Cleaning and Maintenance

- \_\_\_ Facility uses only child-safe, bio-based, non-aerosol cleaning/sanitizing products
- \_\_\_ Facility uses color-coded micro-fiber cloths for cleaning to prevent cross-contamination

- \_\_\_ Facility uses only no-VOC type paints and floor finishes
- \_\_\_ Facility does not use air fresheners of any kind
- \_\_\_ Facility provides warm water and triclosan-free, non-antibacterial liquid soap for hand washing
- \_\_\_ Facility uses non-chlorine, bio-based EPA-approved disinfectant products for diaper-changing areas
- \_\_\_ Facility uses non-chlorine, bio-based EPA-approved sanitizing wipes for cleaning hands, toys and surfaces

### Food Prep Areas and Food

- \_\_\_ Facility provides refrigeration for fresh food
- \_\_\_ Healthy snacks prepared from fruits and vegetables are provided. Fruits and vegetables are washed to remove pesticides and other contaminants before being served
- \_\_\_ To avoid possible lead exposure, facility does not use imported, old or handmade pottery for cooking or serving food
- \_\_\_ No plastic is permitted in microwave ovens
- \_\_\_ Microwave popcorn (in bags coated with the grease-resistant chemical, PFOA) is not served as a snack
- \_\_\_ Building does not have lead-soldered water pipes
- \_\_\_ Pure, filtered water is made available throughout the day

### Furnishings and Toys

- \_\_\_ A shoe-free carpeted area is available for storytelling and resting
- \_\_\_ Upholstered furniture is either free of brominated flame retardants or has no rips or tears exposing foam padding or stuffing

- \_\_\_ Hard furniture is made from solid wood, not particleboard
- \_\_\_ Fabrics on pillows and soft furniture are not treated with stain and water resistant chemicals
- \_\_\_ Facility does not provide small (mouthable) toys made from PVC (recycling code #3), styrene (recycling code #6) or polycarbonate plastic (recycling code #7)
- \_\_\_ Facility checks toys for lead with lead testing kits or referring to [www.healthytoys.org](http://www.healthytoys.org)
- \_\_\_ Facility uses only non-toxic art supplies approved by the Art & Creative Materials Institute (ACMI)

### Miscellaneous

- \_\_\_ Facility has a premise-wide no-smoking policy
- \_\_\_ Facility has a shoe-free policy in areas where children rest on floors to prevent exposure to pesticides or contaminants
- \_\_\_ Facility stores mercury-containing items, including fluorescent bulbs and batteries, in a secure area
- \_\_\_ Facility keeps infectious garbage in closed containers and regularly removes garbage for pick-up to avoid pest problems
- \_\_\_ Facility recycles paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and aluminum

*For more information about the health impact of exposures, and for cost-effective solutions to these issues, please visit:  
[www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org)*