



# Eco-Healthy Child Care

## **Train the Trainer: Fact Sheet\*** **Florida** **April 2009**

### **1. How many children, under the age of 18, in Florida have asthma?**

333,321 Floridians, under the age of 18, have asthma. This age group numbers 3,591,816 which means 9.3 % of children in Florida have asthma.

(American Lung Association State of the Air: 2008; [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org))

### **2. What are the state licensing regulations on the application of pesticides in or near the child care facility?**

Family Day Care--65C-20.010(1)(r) Rodents and vermin shall be exterminated. Pest control shall not take place while rooms are occupied by children.

Child Care--65C-22.002(2)(d) Rodents and vermin shall be exterminated. Pest control shall not take place while rooms are occupied by children.

### **3. Is there a state program working on promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Florida?**

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension is home to the state's IPM program (<http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/index.shtml>). The University also hosts a school IPM program (<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>). For specific pest management problems, contact your local county extension office first. You may find your local office at the following website: <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/>.

### **4. What are the state licensing regulations on smoking on or near a child care property?**

Family Day Care--65C-20.010(1) (c) All family day care home operators shall inform custodial parents or legal guardian in writing, if someone living in the home smokes. Pursuant to Chapter 386, F.S., while children are in care, smoking is prohibited within the family day care home, on all outdoor play areas and in vehicles when transporting children.

Child Care--65C-22.002 (1) (g) Pursuant to Chapter 386, F.S., smoking is prohibited within the child care facility, all outdoor play areas, and in vehicles when being used to transport children.

\*All regulations noted in this document are state regulations. Some cities and/or counties in Florida may have additional regulations. Check with city or county governments to find out if there are additional standards.

**5. What are the state regulations on using candles, air fresheners, and perfumes within the child care program?**

There are no regulations.

**6. What are the regulations on types of cleaners allowed/disallowed in child care programs?**

There are no regulations regarding cleaners.

**7. Do child care centers have to use State licensing regulations for sanitizing and disinfecting?**

No. The State does have a handout available on bleach-to-water ratios but there are no regulations. Many centers use commercial products.

**8. Are child care facilities tested for lead - in paint and water - before receiving a state child care license?**

No.

**9. Are lead testing kits available at state Public Health Departments, if so, are they free?**

Inquire at your local public health department (<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdsitelist.htm>) or contact the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. (For contact info see #15 below.)

**10. Are there regulations regarding using mercury-containing thermometers in child care centers?**

No.

**11. Have any of the chemicals in toxic flame retardants (PBDEs) been banned?**

No.

**12. Have phthalates or BPA been banned, or is the state crafting legislation about banning these toxins?**

No.

**13. Are centers required to use non-toxic art supplies as approved by ACMI...or another institute?**

No.

**14. Are the child care centers asked to recycle by licensing entities – is recycling common?**

There is no requirement to recycle. Recycling services vary throughout the state.

### **15. Is there a state resource/agency that provides free blood-lead-level tests?**

Several insurance plans and HMOs will pay for blood-lead-level tests. If a child is on Medicaid, a lead test is required. The child's Medicaid provider can share the test results. Also, in cooperation with the Environmental Health staff, public health nurses provide assessment, counseling, education and referrals for children with elevated blood lead levels, whether screened by public or private providers. You may contact your local public health department for information (<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdsitelist.htm>).

For additional resources and information you may go to the State's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/medicine/lead/index.html>. The program coordinator's contact info is as follows:

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