What are pesticides?

Pesticides are chemical products designed to kill or keep away living organisms such as insects, rodents, weeds, and other pests.

What is the problem with pesticides?

Babies and children are at greater risk for health problems caused by contact with pesticides.

Children drink 2.5 times more water, 3-4 times more food, and breathe 2 times more air that adults. Because of this, they take in higher amounts of chemicals and pesticides than adults.

Infants and children crawl on the ground where pesticides have been sprayed and put things in their mouth - including their hands - that may have had contact with an area or item sprayed with a pesticide.

Maryland has one of the highest asthma and cancer rates in the country.

Pesticides are linked to:	Pesticides can cause or worsen:
Cancer	Breathing problems
Birth defects	GI Problems: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
Asthma	Muscle and joint pain
Diseases of the nervous system	Dizziness and blurred vision
Infertility	Ear, nose, and throat irritation
Learning Disabilities	Rashes

Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Protect babies and children by using IPM in your daycare center. IPM prevents and eliminates pest problems without harmful pesticides.

- IPM is a long-term, preventive solution. Pesticides are NEVER used first.
- Pest problems are prevented through building maintenance to seal pests out.
- Good housekeeping eliminates the food and water pests need to survive.
- Least-toxic pest products, such as traps,boric acid baits and gels in child-proof contianers, essentail oils, and botanicals, are only used as a last resort instaed of harmful pesticides.

LET US HELP YOU WITH YOU PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The IPM Community Outreach Project
A joint project of Maryland Pesticide Network and Beyond Pesticides
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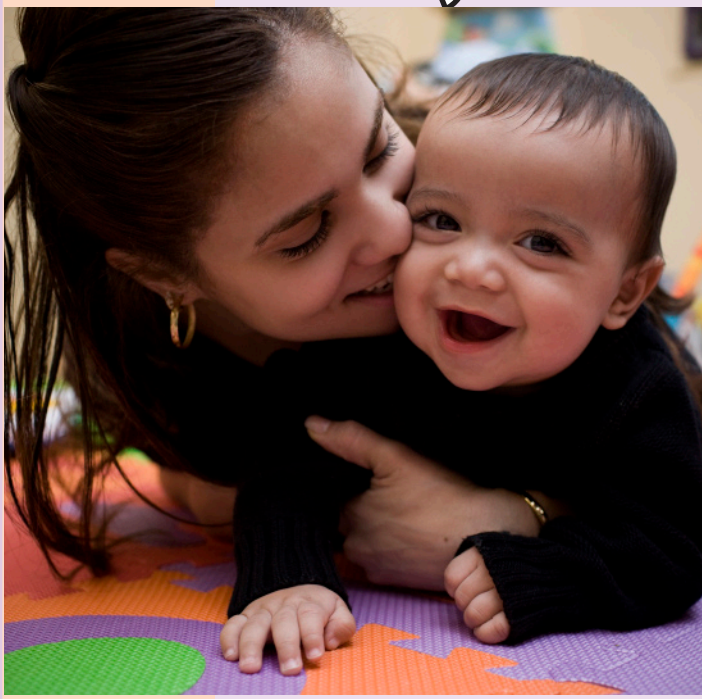
Taking Toxics Out of Daycare



Using Integrated Pest Management

PRACTICE IPM AND KEEP PESTS OUT OF YOUR DAYCARE FACILITY WITHOUT POISONS

Seal pests out

Insects and spiders can squeeze through 1/16 inch gaps. Mice can squeeze through holes the size of a dime and rats can squeeze through holes the size of a quarter!

- Install door sweeps on all exterior doors. Door sweeps can increase your pest prevention by 65%!
- Repair gaps in window and door screens and around pipes under sinks and stoves.
  - Plug holes with caulk or steel wool.
  - Caulk gaps and cracks along doors, baseboards and windows.

Cardboard is a food source and egg-laying site for cockroaches

Don't feed and shelter pests

- Keep all areas of the daycare center clean.
- Do not store items in cardboard boxes and remove cardboard from the building.
- Arrange storage shelving so that a 4-6 inch aisle remains accessible for inspection and cleaning on all four sides. No products should be stacked against walls.
- Place non-refrigerated food items on open metal racks.
- Repair leaking faucets and empty mop buckets daily.
- Keep trash in clean garbage cans or dumpsters with tight-fitting lids.

Use pesticide-free products

Instead of using soaps and babycare cleaning products with pesticides:

- Use chemical-free cleaning and baby products including soaps, baby wipes, and baby body care products rather than antibacterial and other products that contain triclosan or triclocarbon.
- Don't spray pesticides indoors! They are ineffective and expose staff and children to toxic chemicals that could cause serious health problems.
- Have your pest control company practice IPM focused on pest prevention by alerting you to maintenance and housekeeping problems that may be the source of pests. Use least-toxic pesticides only as a last resort.