



a member of the Knowledge Universe family



Protecting Children's Environmental Health in Child Care Settings: CCLC's policies and practices

CCLC's timeline

- 2007 introduction to Eco-Healthy Child Care® endorsement through Oregon Environmental Council (OEC)
 - OEC founded the EHCC program in 2005
- 2007-2008 piloted endorsement in 25 centers in CA and OR
- 2009 required 100% of CCLC centers to be eco-healthy endorsed
 - 108 centers nation wide
- 2010 —100% of CCLC centers were eco-healthy endorsed!
- Currently working to sustain 100% compliance by submitting renewals
 - due every two years

Greatest challenges

- Item #5: We do not use scented or unscented candles or manufactured air fresheners.
 - Concern about parent response to diaper odors and other smells
 - Training/education and sourcing for alternatives
- Item #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.
 - Licensing requirements
 - Affordable and accessible alternatives
- Item #9: We do not use aerosol sprays of any kind.
 - Concern about parent response to diaper odors and other smells
 - Training and education
- Item #23: We avoid toys made out of soft plastic vinyl (such as vinyl dolls, beach balls, and “rubber ducky”, chew toys). Instead, we buy only those labeled “PVC-free”.
 - Limited access
 - Identify and source alternatives when possible

Benefits

- Healthier environments for children
- Reassurance for parents who have children suffering from asthma, allergies or other respiratory sensitivities
- Marketing differentiator
 - Teacher and family recruitment and retention
 - Eco Healthy Child Care® logo on webpage for endorsed centers
 - Links to Eco Healthy Child Care® information on website
- Partnerships with employer partners and/or communities
- Professional Growth opportunities for teaching staff
 - Teachers have the opportunity to lead and grow this initiative
- Partnerships with parents
 - Work with parents to identify sources and alternatives when needed

Extensions and Enrichments

- Battery recycling collections
 - Parent convenience
- Healthy environment education for children and families
 - Curriculum activities
 - Newsletter articles, web links, etc.
 - Parent education seminars/webinars
- National, State & Local conference presentations

Making this happen

- Requires a champion
 - Personal commitment and interest
 - Independent research and knowledge
- Baby steps
- Policies, Procedures, Licensing & Accreditation
 - Research to understand opportunities
- “Teachable Moments”
 - On the spot opportunities
- Support and Resources
 - Eco Healthy Child Care Program®
 - Internet searches
 - Conferences and webinars