

Jessica Redden, RN  
 Child Care Nurse Consultant  
 Scott County Health Department  
 600 W. 4th Street  
 Davenport, IA 52801  
 563-326-8618 Ext. 8821  
[Jessica.redden@scottcountyiowa.com](mailto:Jessica.redden@scottcountyiowa.com)



# Quality Care For Kids



## A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers

Information by IDPH Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology, written by Heidi Hotvedt, RN

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Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



[www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)

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## Pesticides

**Let's talk about pesticides in your home...**

No thanks. I don't use them.

Wait - are you sure? Got a dog? A pool? Ever use bug spray, clean the bathroom, or do yardwork?

Hmm... OK, so what IS a pesticide?

A pesticide is a chemical used to prevent, kill or repel pests. Pests can be insects, mice and other animals, weeds, even some germs!

When not used properly, pesticides can harm people, pets, and the environment. In fact, poison control and NPIC receive over 100,000 pesticide calls each year!

Really? Is there anything I should know about using pesticides safely?

**Pesticide Examples**

- Bug repellent
- Pet flea & tick treatments
- Algae killer for pools and fish tanks
- Bathroom mold removal agents
- Weed killers

**DOs**

- Read the label and follow the directions every time you use a pesticide.
- Store pesticides in their original containers, up, away, and out of sight of children and pets.
- Use protective clothing as directed by the product label. Always wash your hands right after using pesticides.

**DON'Ts**

- Never put pesticides in drinking cups or bottles. Clearly label anything that contains a pesticide.
- Never mix different household pesticides together, unless directed to do so by the label.
- When adding water to pesticides, never use spoons or cups that you use for food.

Got it! Where can I get more information?

**npic**  
 NATIONAL PESTICIDE INFORMATION CENTER  
 1.800.858.7378  
 For general questions about pesticides, including the potential risk to humans, pets, or the environment, call NPIC at 1-800-858-7378.

**POISON Help**  
 1-800-222-1222  
 If someone breathes in, swallows, or gets pesticide in the eyes or on the skin, call poison control 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222.

Caring For Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards (CFOC) states that children must be protected from exposure to pesticides. Child care programs should utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices including sanitation, clutter control, and elimination of conditions that encourage pest infestations. IPM is a common-sense approach to control insects, weeds, rodents and other pests while minimizing risks to health and the environment. For more information on pest control, pesticide safety and IPM go to [www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol](http://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol)

- If someone has inhaled or swallowed a pesticide or gotten it in the eyes or on the skin:
- ◆ Call 911 if the person is unconscious, having trouble breathing or having convulsions.
  - ◆ Call the Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222 to determine the proper first aid or treatment.
  - ◆ Determine the exact name of the product, the concentration, and the EPA registration number. Provide this information to Poison Control, emergency responders, and medical providers.
  - ◆ Check the label for appropriate first aid for the product.
- Human pesticide exposures resulting in medical signs or symptoms are required to be reported to Iowa Department of Public Health. Visit [idph.iowa.gov/ehs/reportable-diseases](http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs/reportable-diseases) for a report form or call 800-972-2026.