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



www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

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Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers

By Penny McCaslin, Beth Turner, and Jane Matzen

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Is Your Center or Home Nicotine-free?

Do you want to keep your center or home up to date and in line with national standards? Does your current tobacco policy go far enough to protect the families you serve, your staff and other visitors from secondhand smoke?

Caring for our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standard Guidelines (CFOC) recommend implementing a comprehensive tobacco and nicotine free policy. This policy prohibits the use of all tobacco products, electronic smoking devices and other nicotine products not approved by the FDA for cessation. It applies at all times and covers the entire child care property. It applies to staff, visitors, business vehicles, and addresses enforcement. A comprehensive policy goes above DHS guidelines and Iowa's Smoke Free Air Act.

How Do I Implement a Policy

- Connect with your local Community Partnership (CP) for help
- Develop a clear, comprehensive policy
- Use this IDPH approved policy available at <https://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products>

- Set a date when the policy will go into effect
- Notify staff, parents and caregivers of the new or updated policy
- Post appropriate signs to help with enforcement
- Find out if you qualify for FREE signage
- Enforce the policy at all times and determine steps to address violations

Who Can Help?

Resources are available to simplify the process for you whether you are a preschool, child care facility or home. Join the growing list of providers that have committed to providing a tobacco and nicotine-free environment. For more information, on how you can implement or update your current policy, contact your local IDPH Community Partnership at <https://idph.iowa.gov/tupac/control>

For help in Scott County, contact Kim Mills, Community Tobacco Consultant:
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Integrated Pest Management

Many people's first reaction to seeing an insect in their home or workplace is to reach for bug spray. Spraying may kill some of the insects, but it leaves a residue that is harmful to children and staff. Young children can have greater exposure as they play on pesticide-treated surface, such as a floor, and then put hands in mouths. Children may not be able to get rid of pesticides from their body as effectively as adults making them more vulnerable to pesticide exposure.

An analysis of sixteen studies looking at parent's report of indoor pesticides exposure and childhood cancer showed that childhood exposure to indoor pesticides was tied to an increase in two types of cancer of the blood. Findings showed a 47 percent increase of childhood leukemia and a 43 percent increase risk of childhood lymphomas in children with pesticide exposure.

There are safer methods to reduce pests in your child care business. Integrated Pest Management is an approach that reduces the pests while minimizing the harmful exposure to pesticides. You can find out more by going to Integrated Pest Management: A Curriculum for Early Care and Education Programs at <http://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/childcare/toolkit/curriculum.pdf> or contact your CCNC for help.