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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

Written by Heidi Hotvedt, RN

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Good Neighbor Iowa

Pesticide exposure in childhood has been linked to attention and learning problems, as well as cancer. Exposure during pregnancy may lead to an increased risk of birth defects, low birth weight, and fetal death.

Children are at high risk for health effects from exposure to pesticides because their bodies are still developing and maturing. They can come into contact with pesticides stored or applied in their homes, yards, child care, schools, parks, or on pets.

Young children often put their hands in their mouth. They also crawl and play on floors, grass, or in spaces that might contain pesticides. Because pesticides are still in many places in our environment, a child's amount of exposure can add up quickly. The Centers for Disease Control and the Academy of Pediatrics state that children's exposures to pesticides should be limited as much as possible.

Exposure to pesticides may not show any immediate symptoms, however pesticide poisoning may look like the flu. If a child in your care shows any of the following signs after coming in contact with a pesticide, immediately call the Poison Control Centers national hotline phone number at (800)222-1222.

- Headaches
- Dizziness/Weakness
- Muscle twitching
- Difficulty breathing
- Skin rashes
- Eye burning
- Change in overall level of alertness



GOOD
NEIGHBOR

The University of Northern Iowa's "Good Neighbor Iowa" initiative is a statewide public education campaign to reduce children's exposure to commonly-used lawn pesticides. It involves school districts, park managers, child care businesses and other community leaders who are demonstrating that it is possible and practical to manage large areas of turf without the use of pesticides (weed killers, insecticides, or fungicides).

Good Neighbor Iowa has developed a "Lawn Care and Pest Management Policy" available for child care businesses. Child care programs adopting the Pest Management Policy will receive Good Neighbor Iowa materials, a brochure about pesticide-free lawn, state-wide recognition as a pesticide-free child care business, as well as "Pesticide-Free" yard signage.

For more information go to:

- Good Neighbor Iowa at <https://goodneighborowa.org/>
- Lawn Care and Pest Management Policy Online Pledge at <https://goo.gl/forms/OYkfQmkMs0kw0rbf2>
- Lawn Care and Pest Management Policy Printable Form at https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/128/Good%20Neighbor%20Iowa%20Child%20Care%20Policy%2C%2026_18%20Final.pdf
- Contact Good Neighbor Iowa at goodneighbor@uni.edu or by phone at (319) 273-7150.