

Quality Care For Kids Newsletter

March 2024 | Good Neighbor Iowa

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Good Neighbor Iowa is a statewide public health education initiative managed in partnership with the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education (CEEE). The CEEE at UNI strives to empower Iowans with the knowledge, experiences, tools, and inspiration to create a sustainable, desirable future.

Good Neighbor Iowa:

- Uplifts pesticide-free lawn management practices,
- Encourages appreciation for diverse lawns
- Educates the public on alternative methods of lawn management.

Good Neighbor partners with residents and community leaders across Iowa to pledge to be "Good Neighbors", joining a collective of people across Iowa that choose to manage their lawns without pesticides for the health of children and the environment.

Good Neighbor Iowa wants to protect Iowa's children, pets, water quality, pollinators, and biodiversity from the effects of pesticides. It is important to protect children from pesticides as it can impact their health during important developmental stages.



Pesticides can be found:

- At home
- Outside
- At school
- On pets

Pesticides can be in many places, which means 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.

If you know pesticides are being used:



Make sure they are stored in an area that's not accessible by children.



Avoid the area if possible.



Wash hands after being near the area.

Good Neighbor Iowa is looking to recognize child care programs that manage their mowed turf without the use of pesticides! Your child care program will be recognized on the Good Neighbor Iowa website and will be plotted on the Good Neighbors Across Iowa map. You will receive Good Neighbor Iowa yard signs to recognize your program as a leader in protecting children from pesticides. For questions contact goodneighbor@uni.edu

Make the pledge to become a Good Neighbor.

<https://goodneighbor-iowa.org/take-action/>



Scan the QR code to find your local CCNC or visit online at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci>

CCNC Contact:

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**Health and
Human Services**