

Pest Control in Illinois Childcare Facilities

PowerPoint Presentation with Script for Training Staff & Parents on IPM

Safer Pest Control Project

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REMEMBER: Tailor the presentation to the specific circumstances at your center. Call Safer Pest Control Project with questions: 312-759-8267.

1 INTRODUCTION

Purpose: Introduce the workshop; make sure they know about SPCP as a resource.

Safer Pest Control for Childcare Facilities

Prepared by Safer Pest Control Project,
a non-profit organization



§ Today we will have a PowerPoint presentation from Safer Pest Control Project.

- SPCP is a non-profit resource center, which helps us deal with pest problems, while limiting children's exposure to pesticides.
- I know pest control is NOT your favorite subject. The gross-out factor is understandable. I happen to feel the same way.
- Although it is unappealing and not the first thing on your minds, it is important for us to learn about for several reasons. There are three main reasons.

2 WHY TALK ABOUT PEST CONTROL?

Purpose: Explain why this workshop is worth our time.

Why Learn About Pest Control in Child Cares?

† Pest & pesticides can endanger
children's health



† Safer pest control (IPM) is required by law



† IPM requires a new attitude & new skills

- 1.) Protecting Children's Health: Every year scientists discover more links between pesticides and health problems like asthma, developmental delays and cancer. What we learn today will help protect our kids from these health problems.
- 2.) Law: In 2003 Illinois adopted a law requiring licensed childcare centers to control indoor pests, like mice, ants and roaches, with a safer method of pest control called Integrated Pest Management or IPM. Today we will learn about the requirements of the law.
- 3.) IPM Requires New Skills: In order to control pests with Integrated Pest Management, everyone must work together to ensure our center isn't attracting and promoting pest problems. Today you will learn what you can do to ensure your actions are not contributing to pest problems. You can also learn the basics of IPM for your use at home if you choose. In fact, that is a great way to understand how IPM works... use it at home.

3 WHAT IS INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT?

Purpose: Ensure audience has a very solid understanding of what is and what is NOT IPM.

What is Integrated Pest Management?

1. Keep Pests Out
2. Remove Pests' Food & Water
3. Remove Pest Harborage
4. Monitor for Pests
5. Create an IPM Plan & Keep Records
6. Treat Existing Pest Problems

Routine Monthly Spraying is NOT Part of IPM

§ [ASK QUESTION: Has anyone here heard of Integrated Pest Management? WHERE? Discuss where they may have heard it before.]

§ Integrated Pest Management or IPM sounds fancy, but it is really quite simple. There are six steps:

1. **Keep Pests Out:** If pests can't get inside, then we don't have to use any pesticides to kill it.
2. **Remove Pests Food and Water:** A major pest problem leads us to one clear conclusion: they are eating something. Without food no creature can survive and reproduce.
3. **Reduce Pest Shelter:** Like you and me, pests need a quiet place to eat, sleep and reproduce. Take away their hiding places and they won't do those things.
4. **Monitor for Pests:** The insurance policy – which tells us *early* if there is a pest problem.
5. **Create an IPM Plan & Keep Proper Records:** an IPM Plan establishes tolerance or action thresholds and identifies what actions needs to be taken in what circumstances.
6. **Treating Existing Problems:** This always comes last. We will use traps when possible and least-toxic pesticides like bait – to protect ourselves and our kids.

§ In a moment I will explain in greater detail how this impacts your jobs; but before we do that, I'd like to share some information about the risks to children from pests and pesticides.

4 WHY USE IPM?

Purpose: Motivate staff to change behavior.

Problems with Pests

- t They're gross!
- t Health Problems
 - n Spread Bacterial Diseases
 - n Contaminate Food
 - n Trigger Asthma
 - n LCMV – spread by mice. Causes meningitis and may harm pregnancies
- t Damage Property
 - n See chewed wiring at right



§ Human beings have been working to control pests for a very long time. [ASK QUESTION: Has anyone considered the problems associated with pests? Why must we get rid of them?]

§ The Dept of Public Health says so; but why are they so concerned?

§ Besides being gross; pests spread bacterial disease. A roach can walk across the toilet bowl, or uncooked chicken in the trash and the walk on cutting boards, plates, etc., leaving behind bacterial contamination.

§ Pests eat what we eat and contaminate our food with urine and feces.

§ Roaches and mice trigger asthma in asthmatic children.

§ Mice can spread LCMV (lymphocytic coriomeningitis virus) through their urine, feces and saliva. LCMV causes meningitis and may cause terrible harm to developing fetuses – sometimes resulting in still birth

§ Mice can also chew through wires and cause fires.

§ So, we know pests must be controlled. How do we do it? Well for a long time we've used pesticides...

5 WHY USE IPM?

Purpose: Motivate staff to change their behavior by presenting info they may not have realized before.

Problems with Pesticides – Children’s Health

Acute Exposure:

- † Asthma Attacks
- † Flu-like Symptoms

Long-Term Exposure:

- † Asthma
- † Cancer
- † Neurological damage
- † Immune System damage
- † Permanent chemical sensitivity



§ You may be surprised to hear that pesticides can be dangerous; for many years, they’ve been our primary means of pest control. Some people feel comfortable enough with them to spray their bedding or treat their homes, even when small children are present. However, scientists identify more problems with pesticides every year.

§ Health: [Note: use any or all of the following points]:

- Synthetic pesticides are ‘by definition’ poison; invented in the 1940s/50s for warfare. Many pesticides were first intended to kill people not bugs¹.
- Pesticides are a common source of poisonings in children².
- Exposure to pests in early childhood leads to double the risk of developing asthma by age 5; exposure to pesticides in early childhood can quadruple the risk of developing asthma by age 5³.
- Asthma has more than doubled since 1980⁴.
- Pesticides are also linked with brain cancer, leukemia, lymphoma and soft tissue sarcoma as well as some neurological problems like cognitive delays and learning disabilities⁵.

§ Many pesticides registered with EPA were later pulled off the market b/c of safety concerns⁶.

§ Children are especially vulnerable to exposure because their bodies are still developing and may be under protected by pesticide safety laws⁷.

§ I can understand some skepticism. A little spray of pesticides and by the sound of this workshop – all our children will end up with asthma, cancer and learning disabilities?

- Not exactly, but asthma, cancer and learning disabilities are a reality in American – some are becoming more prevalent. Something is causing these diseases.
- Pesticides are not the only cause, but research indicates they may contribute. If we have an opportunity to reduce children’s exposure to pesticides – then we may have an opportunity to decrease the chance of one of our children developing future health problems.

6 WHY USE IPM (CONTINUED)?

Purpose: Motivation to change and knowledge about the law.

IPM in Childcare Law (Effective July 1, 2004)

Licensed Childcare Centers Requirements:

- t STOP routine pesticide spraying
- t Adopt an Integrated Pest Management program
- t Notify parents, guardians, employees between 2 and 30 days before pesticide application
- t Never apply pesticides when children are present
- t Remove toys and other items handled by children before pesticides are applied
- t Children shall not return to the treated area within 2 hours of a pesticide application

- § And if that isn't compelling, then let's look at the law. Here's a quick summary of the law:
- All licensed childcare centers are required to use IPM to control indoor pests. That means NO MORE routine spraying of pesticides. Instead, we'll use the six IPM steps to control pests.
 - We will have to assign a staff member to be the IPM Coordinator. [If you know who that staff member is, then announce it right now].
 - We will have to notify all parents and staff between two and thirty days before, *if* pesticides must be used.
 - Before applying pesticides, we must also remove all toys and items mouthed by children.
- § What does this have to do with you? EVERYONE must work together for IPM to work.
- § Does this seem like too much work – moving toys, notifying parents, ensuring children stay out and moving toys back in? Then consider this – if we successfully use IPM then we will stop spraying in favor of least-toxic pesticides, which may not require notification, moving toys or keeping children out.
- § With everyone cooperation, we can have a safe, pest-free facility. And in order for that to happen, you need to have a good understanding about the six steps of IPM. Let's take a closer look.

7 HOW DO WE USE IPM? STEP 1: KEEP PESTS OUT.

Purpose: Develop an eye for what to look for; know how to use IPM.

#1. Keep Pests Out



- § [Note: Give specifics about your facility, focus on problem areas – invite you pest control tech to be in attendance during the training].
- § **Keep Pests Out:** If pests can't get inside, then we don't have to use any pesticides to kill it. There are *many* ways pests enter a facility [note: ask for ideas].
- § **Doors:** keep 'em closed; avoiding propping open for ventilation (open a window instead); let maintenance staff know if door sweeps need repairs.
- § **Windows:** let someone know if there is a torn screen;
- § **Cracks and holes in the building:** we will be working hard to keep these sealed up with caulk or cement; let us know if we've missed any.
- § **Deliveries:** sometimes roaches hitch-hike inside the facility in cardboard. You may be asked to help unload and un-box a food delivery if you are not busy. That way bugs don't get the chance to move in for keeps.
- § **Children:** When children bring pests (probably roaches) inside – we've got a real challenge on our hands. We may consider going diaper bag-free or ask parents to wash winter coats before cold weather starts (two common ways roaches hitchhike inside). If you suspect a child is bringing roaches to school, talk with the director. We may decide to share information with parents about IPM.

8 HOW DO WE USE IPM? STEP 2: REMOVE SOURCES OF FOOD AND WATER.

Purpose: Develop an eye for what to look for; know how to use IPM.

#2. Remove Pests' Food & Water



- § [Note: Place greater emphasis on problem areas inside your facility.]
- § **Remove Pests Food and Water:** A major pest problem leads us to one clear conclusion: they are eating something. Without food no creature can survive and reproduce.
- § Many pests eat the same stuff we do (they're just far less choosy about where it has been). [Note: ask if they have any ideas where pests get their food].
- § Make sure the kids eat while sitting at a table, which is located on top of a cleanable floor surface. No running around with snacks.
- § Don't leave food or dirty dishes out, especially over night.
- § Store all food products in pest-proof containers (including food for arts and crafts).
- § Wipe up spills immediately. Don't sweep crumbs under the counter top or under the rugs.
- § You may, on occasion, be asked to help move a kitchen appliance so kitchen staff can clean behind it.

9 HOW DO WE USE IPM? STEP 3: REDUCE PEST SHELTER.

Purpose: Develop an eye for what to look for; know how to use IPM.

#3. Remove Pest Harborage



- § [Note: Focus on your problem areas.]
- § **Reduce Pest Shelter:** Like you and me, pests need a quiet place to eat, sleep and reproduce. Take away their hiding places and they won't do those things. Our goal is to minimize their options. How can we do this?
- § **CLUTTER! CLUTTER! CLUTTER!** The biggest cause of pest problems in childcare facilities! Not only does it provide all kinds of quiet little places for pests to hang out it ALSO hides all evidence that there is a growing pest problem.
- § Where are our biggest clutter problems? [Discuss] Should we schedule a clutter-buster day or would someone like to create an organizing strategy for the stock/supplies rooms and we'll assign tasks for everyone to complete? [see if you can get a discussion going]
- § Stacked piles or magazines and papers should be stored in clear plastic containers. We are planning to buy some from target, etc.
- § Holes in walls and loose molding are also no-no's. If you see any of these problems, let us know and we'll get them caulked and sealed up. Or if you'd like to learn to use a caulk gun, I'll show you and you can do it yourself.
- § If we start to see pest problems around the recycling or trash, we may have to get lids on the cans or begin to regularly wash them.
- § Anything I've missed?

12 HOW DO WE USE IPM? STEP 6: TREAT THE PROBLEM.

Purpose: Develop an eye for what to look for; know how to use IPM.

#6. Treat Existing Pest Problems

- q We will be using traps and bait if necessary
- q No one is to have pesticides in the school
- q Don't be surprised if the pest control company stops in your classroom.

(They are doing their job by simply looking around. They should NOT be spraying.)



- § **Treating Existing Problems:** This always comes last. We will use traps when possible and least-toxic pesticides like bait – to protect ourselves and our kids.
- § NO ONE is to use or store any pesticides without explicit instructions from the director.
- § If there is the occasional can of Raid in your cupboards, you can turn it into the office without fear of reprimand this week. After that – anyone found with any pesticides could face disciplinary actions.
- § [If you get professional service...] We will be rescheduling our visit from the pest control professional to take place during regular business hours. The pest control person will not be applying pesticides (with the exception of baits, when necessary) but will visit each room and look for problem areas.
- § [If you use a professional service...] our service technician's name is _____. I believe he will make a visit at this time/day _____. The IPM Coordinator _____ may be escorting him on his service call of the facility. If you see him applying any pesticide at all, please notify the director.
- § If the pest control company informs us that a classroom has a major clutter problem or is storing food poorly and leaving crumbs – we'll let you know. If conditions persist, we may take disciplinary action.
- § The pest control company will NOT spray inside anymore unless we have a pest emergency. If we need to use insecticides, we will use baits only – b/c they don't harm children as much.

13 WHAT WILL YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Purpose: Solidifying behavioral change.

What Will You Do Differently?

- t Everyone gets a chance to speak...
- t Main office, administrative changes...
- t Any other ideas on what we can do to maintain a pesticide free facility?

- § The center will be adopting an IPM policy, developing an IPM Plan and making administrative changes to be in full compliance with the law.
- § What changes can each of you make to reduce the pest problems inside the facility?
- § [Go around the room and give everyone a chance to say what they think they will change in their habits].
- § [Ask if there are questions].
- § [Inform them who the IPM Coordinator is].
- § [Set follow up dates to address the issues discussed earlier:
 - Clutter clean out day
 - Pesticide amnesty day
 - Where to find the pest sighting log
- § Are there any other questions or comments? Thanks, I'm looking forward to telling DCFS we are 100% in compliance.
- § Come by my office to discuss concern or call Safer Pest Control Project.

14 Resources and References

Purpose:

Resources and References

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Safer Pest Control Project
www.spcpweb.org
312-759-8267
SPCP is a non-profit resource center available to answer questions.

DCFS
Gonzalo Ayrooa
217-557-0692

IL Department of Public Health
Fred Riesck
217-782-5930
friecks@idph.state.il.us

Your Local R&R
Call INCCRRA for details
(800) 649-1884

REFERENCES

•Synthetic pesticides are by definition poison; invented in the 1940s/50s for warfare—to kill people not bugs (1).
•Pesticides are a common source of poisoning in children (2).
•Exposure to pests in early childhood leads to double the risk of developing asthma by age 5; exposure to pesticides in early childhood can quadruple the risk of developing asthma by age 5 (3,4).
•Asthma has nearly doubled since 1980 (5).
•Pesticides are also linked with brain cancer, leukemia, lymphoma and soft tissue sarcoma as well as some neurological problems like cognitive delays and learning disabilities (6-8).
•Many pesticides registered with EPA were later pulled off the market because of safety concerns (9).
•Children are especially vulnerable to exposure because their bodies are still developing and may be under protected by pesticide safety laws (10)

(1) Carson, Rachel *Silent Spring*
(2) American Association of Poison Control Centers; Toxic Exposure Surveillance System (TESS) <http://www.aapcc.org/poison1.htm>
(3) Salam, M. et al., "Early-Life Environmental Risk Factors for Asthma: Findings from the Children's Health Study" *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 2004 (112): 769-765.
(4) [1] Eskenazi, B.; Bardsman, A.; Castorina, R. "Exposures of children to organophosphate pesticides and their potential adverse health effects." *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 1999; 107(5): 400-419.
(5) CDC: ALA Trends in Asthma Morbidity and Mortality
(6) Daniels, Julie L. et al. "Pesticides and Childhood Cancers." *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 1997 (105): 1071.
(7) Ma, Xiaomei, et al. "Critical Windows of Exposure to Household Pesticides and Risk of Childhood Leukemia" *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 2002 (110): 967.
(8) Kato, Ikuo et al. "Pesticide Product Use and Risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in Women" *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 2004(112): 1275.
(9) Environmental Protection Agency
(10) [1] Beaumont, Peter, "Pesticide Residues Pose Different Risks to Children", *The Pesticides News*, No. 21, Sept. 1993, The Pesticides Trust, London.

§ We can use these resources if we need additional assistance.

§ Also, there is normally a workshop on IPM at the Illinois AEYC and we can call and ask our R&R for a workshop and they may be able to schedule a workshop in our area. Let me know if you'd like to pursue that.

Email jwagner@spcpweb.org with the following information when your training is complete:

- 1.) Number of staff in attendance at the training;
- 2.) Names of parents and names/titles of staff in attendance – a sign-in sheet will work fine;
- 3.) Feedback on the materials – were they useful; what to improve, omit; was the length appropriate; what about the level of detail?

Upon receiving your email I will send you a free organic cotton canvas bag for your use or to give away as a prize for a staff member that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to IPM – i.e. as a clutter buster or IPM Coordinator.

As always contact us with questions and good luck.

Julie Wagner
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