

# IMPLEMENTING IPM IN YOUR ECE PROGRAM



The best way to comply with the Healthy Schools Act and protect the health of children, staff and the environment is to implement an IPM program. Here are the steps to start your IPM program:

## 1 Write and include an IPM policy in your

**center's policy manual.** (See *Sample IPM Policy for Child Care* in the *Appendix*).

This policy should:

- ▶ state how the ECE center will comply with the Healthy Schools Act.
- ▶ identify how the program will manage pests inside the facility and in outdoor play areas.
- ▶ establish a procedure to notify parents and staff if pesticides that are not exempt from the Healthy Schools Act rules must be used.
- ▶ identify minimum qualifications for a Pest Management Professional (PMP) hired to work at your center (see *How to Hire a Pest Management Professional* on page 28).

## 2 Designate an IPM Coordinator.

This person coordinates and leads the day-to-day IPM activities and acts as a liaison with staff, a pest management company (if used), and parents. Often, the program director or facility manager acts as the IPM Coordinator. The IPM Coordinator:

- ▶ assures that staff members report pest sightings using the *Pest Monitoring Log* (see page 39).
- ▶ communicates recommendations from the PMP for cleaning or repairs to staff and administrators, and confirms that they have been carried out.
- ▶ takes responsibility for regular monitoring if there isn't a PMP.
- ▶ assures that the pest management plan for the facility is carried out.
- ▶ is responsible for storage, safe use and disposal of pesticides.

- ▶ facilitates staff training on IPM.
- ▶ does not have to be a pest management expert, but should have good organizational skills and an interest in IPM.

## 3 Provide training for facility and child care provider staff and parents about your IPM program.

IPM is a team effort, requiring cooperation among the director, teachers, custodian, maintenance staff, children and parents.

- ▶ Use the *IPM Toolkit* and *CCHP Health and Safety Notes* to train staff.
- ▶ For further information on educating staff and parents, see the *DPR Child Care IPM-Growing Up Green* website: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/childcare](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/childcare).
- ▶ **Education of staff and parents should focus on how to implement the three steps of pest prevention.** These three steps are ongoing tasks that require everyone's participation.
  - ▷ **Keep pests out.** Make repairs as needed to prevent pests from getting into buildings.
  - ▷ **Remove food and water.** Review sanitation practices. Sanitation includes waste disposal and kitchen cleaning. Repair leaking pipes and eliminate standing water wherever possible.
  - ▷ **Remove shelter.** Clutter offers shelter for many pests, especially rodents, spiders and cockroaches. Organize clutter and eliminate cardboard. Use lidded plastic bins instead, particularly in food areas. Seal openings such as gaps commonly between equipment and floors.

- 4 **Get names and contact information for any outside contractors** the program uses, such as garbage disposal, building maintenance or pest management professionals.
- 5 **If your program requires the services of a PMP, hire one that has IPM experience and knows about the Healthy Schools Act requirements.**
  - ▶ PMPs can help maintain a pest-free, pesticide-free facility (see *How to Hire a Pest Management Professional* on page 28 for more information on interviewing PMPs).
- 6 **If you have a pest problem, inspect buildings and grounds for sources of infestations and contributing conditions.**
  - ▶ Staff should know how to look for and remove conditions that increase pest problems.
  - ▶ Your PMP or IPM coordinator will inspect regularly and record evidence of infestations and conditions that contribute to your pest problem.
  - ▶ Follow up on inspection results by fixing conditions that could lead to pest problems such as sealing pest entry points, reducing clutter, improving sanitation and making repairs.
- 7 **Establish pest monitoring procedures.**
  - ▶ Regularly carry out all inspections identified in your pest management plan.
  - ▶ When needed, place (or ensure that PMP places) monitoring traps in appropriate areas where children and pets cannot find them.
  - ▶ Staff should be instructed not to move or throw away the traps.
  - ▶ Maintenance staff or the IPM Coordinator should monitor traps regularly.
- ▶ Report pest sightings to the IPM Coordinator.
- ▶ Track your program's response to pest sightings—when, where and how often.
- 8 **Identify any pests found.**
- 9 **Create an IPM Action Plan for each pest you find in your environment.**

*Spraying pesticides rarely eliminates pests and isn't a part of an IPM approach except as a last resort when all other strategies haven't been effective.*

  - ▶ Management strategies may include improved sanitation, sealing cracks and moisture leaks, nonchemical management and, if pests are still present, pesticide baits.
  - ▶ The action plan should state how you will prevent invasions, how you will detect problems and how you will manage them if they occur. You should have a plan for each pest in your environment (see *Sample Action Plan for Cockroaches* on page 27). For help in making your action plans, see the *CCHP Health and Safety Notes* for individual pests. By establishing an action plan for each pest, you'll resist the urge to spray and respond in a safer, more environmentally healthy manner. You'll also be able to demonstrate to your licensing analyst that you are in compliance with the Healthy Schools Act.



- 1 0 Establish record keeping.**  
Keep the following records:
  - ▶ A registry of all parents and staff who want to be notified of any pesticide applications in the facility and a protocol for how they are to be notified (required).
  - ▶ Inspection reports of the facility (if ECE staff members are doing inspections, use the *IPM Checklist* in the *Toolkit*).
  - ▶ Pest Monitoring Log (see page 39).
  - ▶ Records of all pesticides used in the facility for four years (required).
  - ▶ IPM recommendations and service reports from the PMP.
  - ▶ Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all nonexempt pesticides used inside the facility.
  - ▶ Work orders for fixing maintenance problems that contributed to pest problems.

- 1 1 Set up a filing system for all the paperwork you will generate and keep it in a convenient location.**
- 1 2 Set up an IPM area in your facility where you can:**
  - ▶ provide information on IPM that staff members can access at their leisure.
  - ▶ post important reminders and communicate with staff when there is a pest problem or an IPM issue such as a housekeeping problem.
- 1 3 Evaluate the program on a regular basis.**
  - ▶ Work with the program’s staff and parents to improve understanding of IPM and identify areas for improvement of the IPM program.
  - ▶ Review the effectiveness of your tracking system.
- 1 4 Remember that implementing an IPM program is an ongoing process, and requires attention and consistency.**



**AN EXAMPLE OF AN ACTION PLAN FOR GERMAN COCKROACHES**

LOCATION/SITUATION	WHEN TO TAKE ACTION	NONPESTICIDE PRACTICES	LEAST HARMFUL PESTICIDE	LAST RESORT
Food Preparation Areas	Cockroaches breed very fast! If you see one cockroach there are probably more and you should start baiting and monitoring efforts. If there are many cockroaches, consider a complete review of sanitation efforts and possibly a more aggressive treatment strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Caulk and seal potential hiding places around water and food prep sites.</li> <li>▶ Keep all food cleaned up or in sealed containers.</li> <li>▶ Clean on a schedule, including less accessible areas.</li> <li>▶ Use sticky traps to monitor populations.</li> <li>▶ Use a HEPA vacuum to remove heavy infestations before treatment.</li> </ul>	Containerized baits, or gel baits applied to cracks and inaccessible void areas.	Insect growth regulator sprays applied to areas where cockroaches are hiding. Boric acid dusts applied to dry, inaccessible areas behind walls.