

# INTRODUCTION

This *Integrated Pest Management Toolkit for Early Care and Education Programs* presents practical information about using integrated pest management (IPM) to prevent and manage pest problems in early care and education programs.

## The Toolkit includes:

- ▶ **A curriculum booklet**, *Integrated Pest Management: A Curriculum for Early Care and Education Programs*, which includes general information about IPM, the Healthy Schools Act, what you need to know about pests and pesticides, how to implement IPM, and appendices with sample policies, forms and letters.
- ▶ **Complimentary materials**
  - ▷ Laminated posters
  - ▷ Health and Safety Notes on individual pests
  - ▷ Fact Sheets for Families
  - ▷ IPM Checklist

The *Toolkit* and additional materials, including a slide presentation, are available in both English and Spanish on the California Childcare Health Program website: [www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/html/pandr/trainingcurrmain.htm](http://www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/html/pandr/trainingcurrmain.htm).

To order the *IPM Toolkit*, complete and return the form available at: [www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/forms/ipm\\_toolkit.pdf](http://www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/forms/ipm_toolkit.pdf).

## Target Audience

The *IPM Toolkit* is intended for use by early care and education staff, directors, family child care providers, building maintenance personnel, early care and education health and safety educators, child care health consultants, child care health advocates, child care licensing analysts, pest management professionals, parents and others interested in the health and safety of children in child care.

## Learning Objectives

After using the IPM Toolkit, you will be able to:

- 1 identify the requirements for child care centers as specified in California's Healthy Schools Act.
- 2 define what is a pest, what is a pesticide and what is integrated pest management.
- 3 explain why children are vulnerable to the health risks of pesticides.
- 4 describe the health effects for children and staff exposed to pesticides and common pests.
- 5 develop and implement IPM policies and practices in your program.
- 6 identify simple and inexpensive IPM methods to prevent or manage common pests.
- 7 inspect your child care facility for the presence of pests or conditions that attract pests using the IPM Checklist.
- 8 share IPM information and resources with staff and parents.



## Background

In a 2009 survey of California child care centers, 90% reported at least one problem with indoor and/or outdoor pests and more than half reported using pesticides to control pests.<sup>1</sup> Pesticides, while sometimes helpful, also pose risks. This curriculum will help you learn how to keep pests out of early care and education (ECE) facilities and reduce the use of pesticides by adopting integrated pest management (IPM). The curriculum will explain what IPM is and how to start an IPM program in your ECE facility. The Healthy Schools Act, a California law that was extended to child care centers in 2007, encourages ECE centers to use IPM and requires all California child care centers to keep records and notify parents if certain pesticides are used.

When there are pests in an ECE facility, many people try to get rid of them as quickly as possible by using pesticides; for instance, spraying pesticides in the building and outdoor areas to get rid of ants. However, pesticides may cause harm to children, staff and the environment. The harm caused by pesticides may be worse than the harm caused by the pests. More than one billion pounds of pesticides are used every year in the U.S.<sup>2</sup> In California almost half are used in urban and residential areas, and pesticide residues can be found where people work, live and go to school.

### Some of the health effects caused by pesticides may include:

- ▶ Immediate illness, such as poisoning, asthma and flu-like symptoms.
- ▶ Long-term developmental and health problems in children, and health problems in ECE staff.

## Curriculum Overview

This curriculum will help you create a healthy and safe ECE environment and provide information on:

- ▶ The California Healthy Schools Act
- ▶ Why children are at higher risk for pesticide exposure and poisoning
- ▶ How to use IPM to
  - ▷ keep pests out.
  - ▷ manage pest problems.
  - ▷ use least-harmful practices.
  - ▷ eliminate use of the most toxic pesticides.



<sup>1</sup> Bradman, A., Dobson, C., Leonard, V. & Messenger, B. (2010). *Pest Management and Pesticide Use in California Child Care Centers*, Center for Children's Environmental Health Research, School of Public Health, UC Berkeley ([apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/childcare/pest\\_mgt\\_childcare.pdf](https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/childcare/pest_mgt_childcare.pdf)).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. EPA, 2000-2001 Pesticide Market Estimates: Usage, [www.epa.gov/oppbead1/pestsales/01pestsales/usage2001.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppbead1/pestsales/01pestsales/usage2001.htm)