

## Good Neighbor Lawn Care & Pest Management Policy:

Children can be exposed to pesticides through food, water, home application, as well as treatment of child care facilities, schools, parks or lawns. Children's unique vulnerabilities and frequent hand-to-mouth behavior can expose them to significantly more pesticides compared to adults. The *American Academy of Pediatrics* advises "Children's exposure to pesticides should be limited as much as possible."<sup>1</sup>

Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards includes the following standard *Integrated Pest Management 5.2.8.1* which outlines policy guidelines regarding pest management.<sup>2</sup>

Pesticides are commonly used indoor and outdoor and often used when not needed. Iowa regulations for child care businesses do not require any use of these chemicals. Alternatives to pesticides and least toxic approaches (natural lawn care and Integrated Pest Management) do exist and have been proven to be effective and easy to administer.

The University of Northern Iowa's program initiative *Good Neighbor Iowa*<sup>3</sup> is dedicated to reducing children's exposure to pesticides. Good Neighbor Iowa can assist your child care business in taking the necessary steps to protect child health from unnecessary pesticide exposure.

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All staff, substitute staff, and volunteers at \_\_\_\_\_ [insert name of child care business] follow the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Caring for our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards (CFOC), and the Good Neighbor Iowa program to reduce the risk of child and infant exposure to pesticides. We recognize that pesticides are harmful to children's health.

### **Policy Steps we take to protect child health from unnecessary pesticide use:**

- **We pledge to eliminate use of weed killers (herbicides) and insecticides on lawn and playground areas.**
- **We pledge to disseminate information about pesticide harms provided by Good Neighbor Iowa to parents.**

### *Optional Indoor Policy (check all that apply):*

- We pledge to implement practices that significantly reduce the need for pesticide application for indoor pests.**
- We pledge to follow the guidelines outlined in [CFOC Standard 5.2.8.1: Integrated Pest Management](#) regarding Integrated Pest Management in and around our facility.**

*For further Integrated Pest Management resources, contact Good Neighbor Iowa.*

A copy of this policy is available to parents/guardians and included in our parent handbook.

This policy is effective on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Signed By: \_\_\_\_\_ (Director/Owner)

*Child care programs adopting this 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.*

Contact Good Neighbor Iowa at [goodneighbor@uni.edu](mailto:goodneighbor@uni.edu), or by phone at (319) 273-7150.



<sup>1</sup> Pesticide exposure in children. American Academy of Pediatrics. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/130/6/e1765>

<sup>2</sup> Caring for Our Children. National Health and Safety Performance Standards. "Chapter 5: Facilities, Supplies, Equipment, and Environmental Health." <http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/StdNum/5.2.8.1+>

<sup>3</sup> Good Neighbor Iowa program. Program webpage: <https://goodneighbor.iowa.org/>