

# **Adventures in Learning Inc,**

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## **Pesticide Policy**

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## **Important Phone Numbers:**

Poison Control: 1(800) 222-1222

National Pesticide Telecommunication Network: 1(800) 858-7378

## **Background Information**

With increasing concern about the pesticides on a child's health, a law has been passed dealing with the use of pesticides in licensed childcare centers. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 "public schools and licensed childcare centers must provide annual notifications of their pest control policies and methods, establish a system to notify families of children and employees of planned pesticide use and post signs where pesticides have been applied" (chapter 17.21 RCW, The Pesticide Application Act).

Pesticides can have a range of effects on a child's health from skin irritation to difficulty breathing, rash or vomiting. Long term exposure can lead to developmental delays, immune system disruption, or cancer. Children with special needs, such as children with asthma or allergies can be highly sensitive to pesticides and suffer mild to severe reactions to pesticides.

What is a pesticide? A pesticide is "a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest". Some examples of pesticides are weed killers, ant or roach killer, flea, lice control products, mold, mildew cleaners, sanitizer, cleaners, mite control products, or termite. Make sure to read the labels carefully. The label will have an EPA registration number on it.

## **Intent Of This Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health of your child. We are dedicated to using the least amount of chemicals to help protect your child(ren). To control pests at Adventures in Learning Inc, we attempt to prevent infestation by doing the following.

- Taking the trash out daily or more as needed.
- Cleaning trash cans regularly.
- Dumpsters are kept covered and away from the building.
- Keeping our grounds clear of food or rubbish.
- Storing food in sealed plastic containers.
- Cleaning and sanitizing all dishes and surfaces used for eating or food preparation once after meals or at the end of the day.
- Preventing pest entry by sealing cracks and holes.
- Moisture control.
- Managing weeds.

## **Notification of Pesticide Policy**

Adventures in Learning Inc will provide written notification annually and upon enrollment to families and to our employees describing the program's pest control policies and methods. Our policy is available to all families and staff for review, a copy of our policy is located on the front counter.

## **Record Keeping and Annual Summary/Notification**

We will keep records of all pesticide applications to our center facility and landscape, including a list of active ingredients and copies of pre-notification and notification postings and method of distribution. We will make the records of all pesticide applications including an annual summary of records readily available to any interested. The previous year summary will be made for review and attached to the pesticide policy as well.

## **Building/Facility Application**

We will notify parents and our staff at least 48 hours (about 2 days) before a building / structural pesticide is done. The notification system will include posting of notification on our parent board and on each of the classroom doors. We are not required to pre-notify if the indoor application is made when the center is **NOT** occupied by children or staff for at least two consecutive days after the application is done (I.E. Friday evenings). The pre-notification requirements do not apply to any emergency application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects.

Pre-notification and notification signs for applications of any pesticides will be a minimum of 8.5" x 11" and will include the following information:

- The product name of the pesticide to be applied.
- The intended date and time of application
- The location to which the pesticide is to be applied.
- The pest to be controlled.
- The name and phone number of a contact person at the center.
- Notification signs will be printed in colors contrasting to the background.

## **Time of Application Notification**

Pre-notification signs will be updated if the application differs from the original application. Notification signs will remain up for at least 24 hours from the time the pesticide has been applied. If the pesticide label requires a restricted entry interval longer than 24 hours, the sign will remain in place consistent with the restricted entry interval time that is required on the label.

## **Landscape/Grounds Application**

A landscape application is any pesticide that is applied to exterior landscape plants, lawn, or insect nests located around our facility (including weed killers). Adventures in Learning Inc **does not** use any pesticide on our landscape or grounds.

## **Liability**

Adventures in Learning Inc are not liable for the removal of signs by unauthorized individuals. We may not be held liable for personal property damage or bodily injury resulting from signs that are placed as required. Adventures in Learning Inc, staff do not need to be licensed to apply pesticides unless they are using state, federally restricted pesticides, using motorized mechanical, or pressurized power equipment.

## **Storage and Disposal of Pesticides**

We **do not** store pesticides at Adventures in Learning Inc, nor anywhere on our grounds.

## Pesticide Resources

### Compliance and Support

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WDSA)

Pesticide Management Division 1 (877) 301-4555

[www.agr.wa.gov/pestfert/pesticides/schools/htm](http://www.agr.wa.gov/pestfert/pesticides/schools/htm)

Washington State Legislature RCW 17.21.415

[www.leg.wa.gov/RCW/index.cfm?fuseaction=section&section=17.21.415](http://www.leg.wa.gov/RCW/index.cfm?fuseaction=section&section=17.21.415)

Washington State D.S.H.S

Division of Childcare and Early Learning (DCCEL)

Contact according to region [www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel)

Washington Administrative Code: Childcare Center (WAC's)

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel/pdf/0308ctrwacwtoc.pdf>

Washington State Department of Health (DOH)

Pesticide Surveillance Program: 1(888) 586-9527

[www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/PEST.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/PEST.htm)

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Resources

California Healthy Schools Campaign

[www.calpirg.org/org/enviro/healthy\\_schools/index.htm](http://www.calpirg.org/org/enviro/healthy_schools/index.htm)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[www.epa.gov/pesticides.ipm/#bkmrkl](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides.ipm/#bkmrkl)

EPA-IPM for Schools "A How to Manual"

[www.epa.gov/Region9/toxic/pest/schools/](http://www.epa.gov/Region9/toxic/pest/schools/)

Safer Pest Control Project (SPSP)

[www.spcpweb.org/childcare\\_ipm.html](http://www.spcpweb.org/childcare_ipm.html)

Urban Pesticide Strategy Team (UPEST)

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wa/pesticides/upest/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wa/pesticides/upest/index.html)

**Wind Meters** (search “wind Meter” on any search engine)

Forestry Suppliers: [www.forestry-suppliers.com](http://www.forestry-suppliers.com)

Weather Meter: [www.weathermeter.com](http://www.weathermeter.com)

## **Children’s Health and Pesticides**

Beyond Pesticides: <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/main.html>

Children’s Environmental Health Network: [www.cehn.org](http://www.cehn.org)

National Children’s Study: <http://nationalchildrenstudy.org/>

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU):  
<http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/>

The Precautionary Principle: <http://www.biotech-info.net/precautionary.html>

UW Center for Child Environmental Health Risk Research:  
<http://www.depts.washington.edu/chc/>