



Smoke-Free Day Care

Voluntary Steps To Protect Children's Health

www.cleanair.org/ceh

Smoke Free Day Care Fact Sheet #1

Day care facilities provide a healthy environment for children while they are away from their parents and homes.

In order to make sure these environments are as healthy as possible, it is important that these facilities be free from tobacco smoke pollution (TSP).

There are laws in Pennsylvania governing smoking in day care facilities. It is good to go beyond these minimum legal requirements to make sure all children have a healthy environment in which to grow and learn.

For more information on what the law requires, see smoke free day care fact sheet number 2.

Voluntary Steps

While it is extremely important not to smoke in rooms used for child care while children are present, it is better to never allow smoking in these rooms. In addition to staying in the air, toxins from the smoke settle on surfaces in the room. When children touch and crawl on these surfaces, they are exposed to the toxins.

The following voluntary measures will significantly reduce childhood exposure to TSP, and this means a healthier future for all children.

- Day care providers should have a published smoke free policy. It is best to not allow any smoking on the premises.
- Smoking near entrances and air vents should be prohibited. Smoke can often enter the building through the doorway and even the ventilation system. People entering and exiting the building are exposed to TSP, too.
- Child care workers should not smoke during the day when they know they will be interacting with children later. Toxins from tobacco smoke can also gather on the clothes of a smoker. When children are held, they press up against these clothes and are exposed to the toxins that linger in the fibers.

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