

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Policy for Debra T. Thomas Learning Center 2, Inc.

Purpose

An official policy requiring Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to be practiced at Debra T. Thomas Learning Center makes it clear to employees and contractors that they must comply with IPM Program. The policy also serves as a guide for the pest manager as he or she makes decision on pest control.

Policy

It is the policy of our childcare facility to implement and practice IPM to control pests in the facility and to minimize exposure of students, faculty, and staff to pesticides. It is also the policy of our childcare facility to notify, in writing, all students, parents, and employees prior to the use of non-bait pesticides inside the facility. According to Illinois law, if pesticides are applied that may not be applied in the presence of children; toys and other items mouthed by children must be removed prior to spraying; and children may not re-enter the treated area for at least two hours or as long as stated on the product label.

Pests

It is the policy of our childcare facility to control pests in the environment. Pests can pose hazards to human health, damage property, and disrupt learning.

Pesticides

It is the policy of our childcare facility to minimize potential exposure to pesticides in the environment. Exposure to pesticides can pose health risk to students, staff, and others, which can be minimized by practicing IPM. Teachers and staff may not use or keep pesticides in the facility. Only authorized individuals may purchase or store pesticides.

Regularly scheduled application of pesticides are **not** permitted under this IPM policy.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The IPM program in this facility will include the following:

- Regularly monitoring to identify pest problems,
- Preventative actions to reduce future pest problems,
- Preference for the use of non-chemical control methods to address pest problems,
- When necessary, the use of least-hazardous chemical controls after non-chemical control methods have been applied,
- Training for staff to facilitate this program.

IPM Coordinator

An appropriate staff member will be designated as the IPM Coordinator. This person will be responsible for overseeing pest control for this facility.

Notification

If a pesticide application is deemed to be necessary by the IPM Coordinator, parents and staff will be notified in writing two business days prior to the pesticide application. This applies to indoor application of pesticides and outdoor application of pesticides on our facility grounds. Antimicrobial (sanitation) agents and insecticide and rodenticide baits are exempt from notification requirements.

Contractors

Any contractor hired by our childcare facility to provide pest control or other services must comply with our facility IPM and notification policy. The contractor will be knowledgeable of the IPM policy in Childcare laws and the use of IPM for structural pest control. Contractors must refrain from routine pesticide spraying, provide detailed serve reports with each visit, and give recommendations for pest prevention.