

# **St. Luke Preschool Program**

## **Pesticide Policy**



# Pesticide Policy

## Background Information:

Increasing concern about the impact of pesticides on children's health has led to a law dealing with pesticide use in schools and licensed child care centers. As of July 1, 2002, public schools and licensed child care centers must provide annual notification of their pest control policies and methods, establish a system to notify families of children and employees of planned pesticide use. (Chapter 17.21 RCW, The Pesticide Application Act).

The impact of pesticides on children's health can range from irritation to skin and mucous membranes, to difficulty breathing, rash or vomiting. Long term exposure may lead to developmental delay, immune or endocrine system disruption or cancer.

In addition, children with special needs, asthma and allergies can be highly sensitive to pesticides and suffer from mild to severe reactions to pesticides and pesticide residues.

## Definition of a Pesticide:

A pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. The term pesticide applies to:

- **Pesticides** ( note: some fertilizers may contain pesticides)
- **Insecticides** (i.e. ant or roach killer, flea and lice control products) •
- **Herbicides** (i.e. weed killers)
- **Fungicides** (i.e. sanitizers, cleaners, mold and mildew cleaners, some pool chemicals for algae, including bleach (note: when bleach is used for general sanitizing [ $\frac{1}{4}$  cup bleach: 1 gallon water] it is NOT considered a pesticide).
- **Miticides** (i.e. mite control products; termite, dust, spider)
- \*Labels should be read carefully. The label will contain an EPA registration number.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (definition)**

**IPM is a pest management strategy that focuses on long term prevention or suppression of pest problems including the following six components: (\*Must also be in compliance with RCW 17.21.415)**

1. Education of staff
2. Monitoring pests
3. Pest prevention (non-chemical)
4. Least hazardous approach to pest control
5. Notification of pesticide use
6. Record keeping

**Poison Control 1-800-222-1222**

**National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) 1-800-858-7378**

## Building/Facility Application

### Pre-Notification

We will notify families and staff at least **forty-eight (48) hours** before a building/structural pesticide application.

\*Application to the center must be made within **48 hours** following the intended date and time stated or the pre-notification process must be repeated.

\*The pre-notification requirements do NOT apply if the indoor application is made when the center is NOT occupied by children or staff for at least **two (2)** consecutive days after the application (i.e. Friday evening). \* The pre-notification requirements do not apply to any **emergency** application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an **emergency** center application is made notification will be made at the time of application and the center will be evacuated and closed to protect children and staff unless area treated can be contained and inaccessible to children.

## Storage and Disposal of Pesticides

### A) Storage

We do **NOT** store pesticides in the child care building or on the grounds.

We will not store pesticides above foodstuffs due to the possibility of leakage.

Children will not touch or transport any pesticide or pesticide container.

## Pesticide Resources

### **Compliance and Support**

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WDSA)  
Pesticide Management Division  
1-877-301-4555 or (509) 663-9616 (David Zamora, Ph.D.)  
[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 Child Care and Early Learning (DCCEL)  
Contact according to Region  
[www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel)

Washington Administrative Code: Child Care Center (WAC's)  
<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel/pdf/0308ctrwacwtoc.pdf>

Washington State Department of Health (DOH)  
Pesticide Surveillance Program  
1-888-586-9427  
[www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/PEST.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/PEST.htm)

### **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Resources**

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"  
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html>

The IPM Institute of North America  
[www.ipminstitute.org](http://www.ipminstitute.org)

Safer Pest Control Project (SPCP)  
[www.spcpweb.org/childcare\\_ipm.html](http://www.spcpweb.org/childcare_ipm.html)

