



Healthy Spaces Happy Children Pilot Program Informational Packet



The Healthy Spaces Happy Children Program provides free supplies and promotion for Indiana childcare centers with asthma-friendly, environmentally healthy spaces for the children in their care. This grant-funded program begins when a childcare center signs up. Then, we provide free technical assistance, supplies, and resources to help achieve the center's healthy space goals. Once the goals are reached, the center earns additional supplies along with promotion as a certified Healthy Space. Children are the future, so provide them with a healthy space that helps them thrive!

This application packet contains the program guidelines and resources, and the provider application. For any questions, please contact asthma@hecweb.org for questions.

To review more information on the Healthy Spaces Happy Children program, visit www.ikecoalition.org/asthma

We appreciate your invested interest in ensuring that all children grow up in a healthy environment.



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Purpose and Program Overview

Welcome!

Improving Kids Environment (IKE) offers this environmental health improvement program for licensed and registered childcare facilities. The Healthy Spaces Happy Children Award program will provide the necessary tools and resources to providers and their staff so they can create healthy spaces for the children in their care. The program rewards and recognizes licensed and registered providers who take the initiative to reduce children's exposure to environmental health risks.

For the pilot program, we accept rolling submissions from Marion and Johnson Counties in Indiana. Improving Kids Environment's (IKE) Environmental Health Associate will review each childcare center's application and aid the provider in advancing through the program.

Timeline

If you have a childcare center in Marion or Johnson County, Indiana, you can start the program by simply submitting this online [Interest Form](#). Then, you will receive the Healthy Spaces checklist and a call from IKE's Environmental Health Associate. Our associate is available to you for consultation as you choose the level you want to achieve and then work through the checklist. Once you have completed your checklist, our associate will do a walk-through assessment with you. A successful walk-through means you have earned Healthy Spaces certification and the free promotion and supplies listed below under 'Benefits'.

To be included in the recognition ceremony scheduled for **May 4th, 2024**, the childcare provider must submit the self-assessment checklist and have the walk-through assessment by **April 19th, 2024**.

- All childcare providers participating in the program will receive their Healthy Spaces certification at the Healthy Spaces Happy Children Recognition Ceremony on **Saturday, May 4, 2024**.
- Program evaluations will be distributed to providers at the ceremony and should be completed **by May 31, 2024**.
- Benefits will be distributed beginning **June 1, 2024**, after you turn in your program evaluation.

Your Healthy Spaces certification will remain in effect for three years. Providers must re-apply and complete the walk-through assessment to renew their certification. Providers will receive an email notification from the Environmental Health Associate reminding them when to renew.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a licensed childcare provider;
- In Marion or Johnson Counties in Indiana;
- Submit a complete and accurate application.

Communication

Once we have received the provider's interest form, IKE staff will be available for assistance as childcare centers work through the self-assessment form. Once the self-assessment is complete, we will schedule a walk-through assessment via email with the provider. You can reach IKE's Environmental Health Associate by email at asthma@hecweb.org.

Levels

Childcare centers can achieve Healthy Spaces certification at the silver, gold or platinum level. Below are the criteria that IKE will be using to assist providers with achieving their desired level. The tasks in the Healthy Spaces checklist fall into these three categories:

- Environmental Asthma Triggers
- Lead
- Chemical Management

Within each category, there are three areas for improvement:

- Training
- Implementation
- Policy

For a provider who wants to achieve a silver, gold or platinum level, they must complete two-thirds of the tasks in that level with at least one task from each category (environmental asthma triggers, lead, and chemical management).

- To achieve the silver level, complete 12 out of the 19 silver level tasks
- To achieve the gold level, complete 21 out of the 33 gold level tasks
- To achieve the platinum level, complete 28 out of the 42 platinum level tasks

The Environmental Health Associate is here to help childcare providers achieve their goals. She will work with providers through the levels and improvement stages. When it is time for the walk-through assessment, the provider will be asked to show materials that document the tasks they completed. Proof of completion can include pictures, certificates, posters, and physical documentation like notes.

If there are questions, concerns, or comments, please get in touch with Katya Drake, the Environmental Health Associate, at asthma@hecweb.org.



Benefits

There are two benefits packages that may be received for participating in the Healthy Spaces Happy Children program. The initial benefits are provided to all childcare providers as soon as they submit their interest form. The secondary benefits are given to the provider(s) who successfully complete the program and submit our program evaluation form. Providers get to choose one benefit from each of the secondary benefits categories. The secondary benefits are distributed starting **June 1st, 2024.**

Benefits Package: Initial Benefits

- Free educational materials and training
 - Handouts
 - Informational guides
 - Policy templates
 - No-idling signage.
 - Air Quality/Air Pollen Tracker signage
 - In-person training and presentations on environmental health risks
- Technical Assistance
 - This includes:
 - One-on-One walk-through assessment
 - Water testing
 - Soil and dust collection for lead screening kit

Benefits Package after Healthy Spaces certification: Free supplies

- Benefits for the facility; choose one of the following:
 - Green cleaning supply kit
 - Vacuum cleaner with HEPA filter
 - Water Purifier
- Benefits for Child Development; choose one of the following:
 - Montessori-focused toys
 - Visa Gift Card
 - Environmentally Friendly Art kit

Benefits Package after Healthy Spaces certification: Free Promotion

- Use of the Healthy Spaces Happy Children logo
- Listing on the Healthy Spaces website
- Promotion via IKE's social media