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Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



<https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/>

The Child Care Nurse Consultant Program is funded by



# Quality Care For Kids

## A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers

Written by Heidi Hotvedt RN BSN

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### Good Neighbor Iowa

**Wanted:** Child care providers dedicated to protecting children's environmental health.

The University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy & Environmental Education **Good Neighbor Iowa** campaign aims to reduce unnecessary pesticide use to protect water quality, pollinators, and most importantly - child health!

Prenatal and childhood exposure to pesticides increases the risks of developing negative health outcomes including cancer, chronic illness, neurodevelopmental and behavioral disorders (such as autism and ADHD). Because of the important role child care providers play in children's health and development, child care programs are urged to join **Good Neighbor Iowa**.

Caring For Our Children (CFOC) Standard 5.2.8.1 recognizes the dangers of pesticides to children's health and encourages child care programs to adopt an integrated pest management program (IPM). CFOC 5.2.8.1 states that spraying the grounds of a child care facility exposes children to toxic chemicals and should be avoided. It is important to remember that environmental health

effects overall health. A healthy environment will help make a positive impact on a child's health for life.

**Good Neighbor Iowa** is looking to recognize child care programs across the state that manage their mowed turf without the use of pesticides! Join the initiative:

- Make a pledge at <https://goodneighborowa.org/join-us/>
- Your child care program will be recognized on the **Good Neighbor Iowa** website and will be plotted on their map.
- You will receive **Good Neighbor Iowa** yard signs to recognize your program as a leader in protecting children from pesticides.
- For questions contact [goodneighbor@uni.edu](mailto:goodneighbor@uni.edu)

For more information go to <https://goodneighborowa.org/>. Read about managing turf without pesticides under the "Healthy Lawns" tab. Also read CFOC standard 5.2.8.1 at <https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/5.2.8.1>

Thank you for the important work you do for Iowa's children!

### Coronavirus COVID-19

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory virus that is spreading worldwide. The virus is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes and tiny droplets land on people or objects. Symptoms can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. You may be concerned and children may worry and have questions. Your confidence and calm attitude will help to ease their worries and feel safe and secure.

At this time Iowans are at low risk for COVID-19 however remember to:

- stay home when sick
- cover coughs and sneezes
- wash hands often with soap and water
- clean and disinfect surfaces

For more information go to <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus> and click on **Fact sheet: Talking to Children About COVID-19**