



Choose Safe Places
for Early Care and Education
Planning. Guidance. Protection.

4 Steps for Building a Safe Siting Program

State agencies can work together to ensure children are better protected from harmful environmental chemicals. Learn how to create a safe siting program in your state.



The problem: The location of an early care and education (ECE) program is sometimes not given enough consideration. Children may be at risk from contamination — left behind from how the building or property was used in the past, from naturally occurring harmful substances, or from nearby sites.

The solution: State health departments, licensing agencies, local planning and zoning departments, and others can collaborate to address gaps in regulations and policies — so ECE programs aren't at risk from harmful chemicals.



Follow these 4 steps to start a safe siting program in your state.

1 Form partnerships

- ✓ Reach out to other state, county, or local agencies to collaborate
- ✓ Consider partnering with departments of public health, community planning, licensing, environmental protection, and zoning

2 Identify ways to strengthen licensing policies

- ✓ Review current rules, policies, and practices for locating ECE programs in your area
- ✓ Look for environmental health risks that might have been missed

3 Build on existing resources

- ✓ Don't start from scratch when developing your program — look for ways to create a safe siting program without additional funding or staff
- ✓ Use current programs as models

4 Implement the program

- ✓ Educate staff and other agencies about the value of safe siting and how the program works
- ✓ Find ECE programs and locations with potential issues — and if you find problems, follow up
- ✓ Track your successes — and refine your program based on feedback

Learn more

ATSDR's **Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education** offers state agencies the resources they need to create new safe siting coalitions. We're dedicated to making sure that ECE programs are located safely — and that children are protected from dangerous chemicals during their care.

Check out our **Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education Toolkit**.

You'll find a tool for choosing a safe location, a copy of our complete guidelines, and more essential information.

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE

