

Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education Video

[Title card appears. **Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education: Planning. Guidance. Protection.** HHS, CDC, and ATSDR logo. Happy music plays.]

NARRATOR: There are up to 8.3 million children in daycares, preschools, and other early care and education centers in the U.S. And people assume that these early care and education centers are safe places for children to learn and grow.

[Blue words say “8.3 Million.” A child runs across the “8.3 Million” chasing a butterfly. She jumps down between four blue buildings. Flowers sprout up next to the buildings.]

NARRATOR: But what if we told you . . . that’s not always true? Because right now, up to 1 in 8 children could be in a child care building that hasn’t been properly assessed for harmful chemicals.

[The buildings change from blue to orange. The flowers die. The child runs away. Happy music stops]

[The words “Harmful Chemicals” appear. 8 children — 7 of them blue and 1 of them orange — show the “1 in 8” statistic.]

NARRATOR: In most states, there’s no clear process to make sure early care and education centers are located safely.

[The words “No Clear Process” appear beside an orange map of the United States covered in question marks.]

NARRATOR: So they’ve been in or near some pretty dangerous places — like factories, old gas station sites, and dry cleaners.

[A blob of toxic chemicals falls from the words, “No Clear Process.” The blob turns into buildings: a factory, a gas station, and a dry cleaner.]

NARRATOR: Children may be at risk of contact with some very harmful materials — like mercury, lead, and radon.

[Blocks with the words “Mercury,” “Lead,” and “Radon” appear.]

NARRATOR: Children are more sensitive to these materials than adults because their bodies are still growing. . .

[Blue child joins three orange children. The orange children are playing in the dirt and touching their mouths.]

NARRATOR: . . . and they can have serious and irreversible health effects, including kidney damage, learning difficulties, and cancer.

[The blue child slowly grows into an adult. The words “Kidney Damage,” “Learning Difficulties,” and “Cancer” appear stacked on top of each other.]

NARRATOR: We know you already work hard to protect children’s health in your state, and you can build on those efforts to make sure that early care and education centers are located safely.

[A blue map of the United States appears. Some of the states turn green. A butterfly flies across the map. Happy music resumes.]

[The words “Early care and education centers are located safely” appear on the screen. The butterfly flies over the words.]

NARRATOR: We have resources that can help your state develop an action plan. . .

[Three tall buildings pop up. A green “safety” checkmark appears on each building. There is a background of skyscrapers behind them. The butterfly flies across the buildings.]

NARRATOR: . . . and build important partnerships between different sectors, like state health agencies, policymakers, and licensing agencies. . .

[Three towers pop up one at a time. One says “State Health Agencies,” one says “Policymakers,” and one says “Licensing Agencies.” A bridge forms, connecting the three towers. The butterfly flies across the towers.]

NARRATOR: . . .so together, you can make environmental safety a key consideration when a new center is being approved.

[Blue children are outdoors playing with kites and toy trucks. A child holds hands with an adult. The blue child jumps up and down. The butterfly flies past the children.]

NARRATOR: Partnering together can prevent potential tragedies — and has other big benefits, like building trust in communities, and lowering legal and liability costs.

[The blue child chases the butterfly. A blue arrow with the word “Trust” pops up. A group of adults and a child are above the word “Trust.” A blue arrow with the word “Costs” pops down. There is a dollar sign below the word “Costs.” The butterfly flies beneath the arrows and the blue child follows.]

NARRATOR: Learn how to protect children in early care and education centers and create an action plan for your state. **Because our kids are worth it.**

[A computer monitor appears with ATSDR's Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education web page on it. The child and the butterfly move past it. A blue shield appears, with a green "safety" checkmark next to it. A clipboard appears, with a green "safety" checkmark next to it.]

[The words "Because our kids are worth it" appear. The child and the butterfly are next to the words.]

[End card with HHS, CDC, and ATSDR logo and title. **Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education: Planning. Guidance. Protection.** Visit: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE].