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

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.

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

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

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

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