

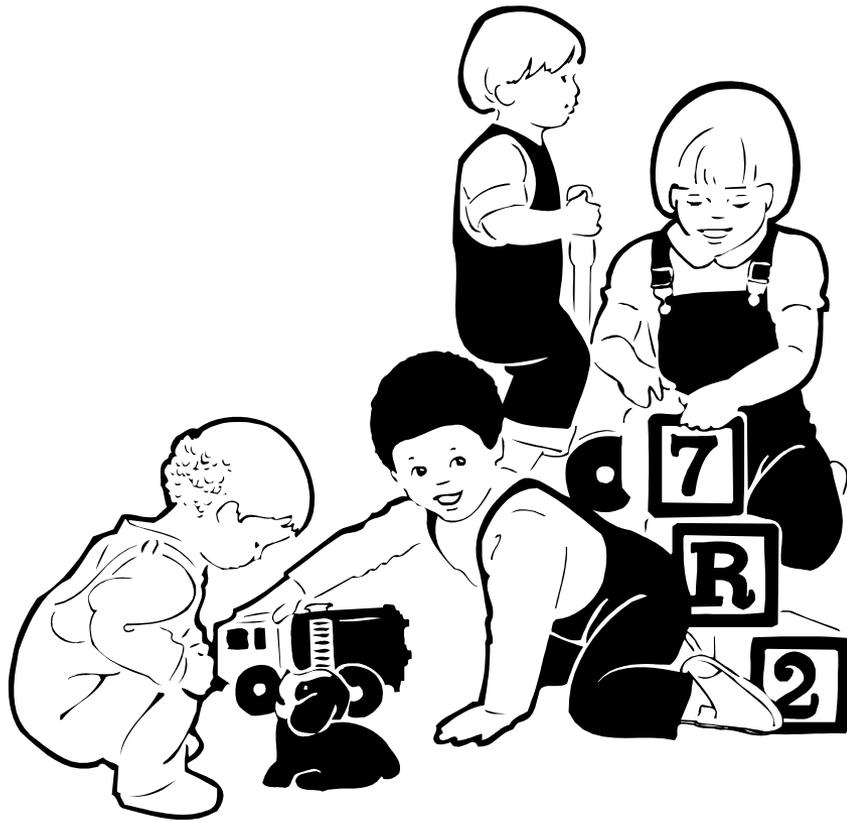


**Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management**

**PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
THREATS**

***5-STAR ENVIRONMENTAL  
RECOGNITION FOR  
CHILD CARE FACILITIES***

# Why is IDEM focusing on Child Care Facilities?

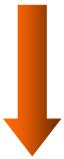


- ☑ Over 100,000 Hoosier children attend daycare
- ☑ Children not little adults

# Children are not little adults



Different  
Environmental  
Exposures



Physiological  
Differences



Windows of  
Vulnerability  
During Development



Different adverse health effects in children and adults

# Children drink, eat, and breathe more per pound of body weight



Infants



Adults

# Environmental Contaminants can Affect Children Differently than Adults



- ⌘ Children may be more highly exposed to contaminants
- ⌘ Children may be more vulnerable to the toxic effects of contaminants.

# Why be concerned about environmental health for children at your facility?

- ☒ Was your building built prior to 1978?
- ☒ Do you have gas heat or gas appliances?
- ☒ Do you use pesticides?
- ☒ Have you or are you renovating?
- ☒ Do you know the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer?



- ☒ Do you have a mercury thermostat?
- ☒ Do you have leaks or water damage?

# The Bad News



⌘ Children still have elevated blood lead levels.

- ⌘ Asthma rates increasing.
- ⌘ Concerns of mercury exposure in the womb.
- ⌘ Disproportionate impact of childhood diseases on low-income and minority children.

# What can you do?

- ⌘ Take a look at your childcare facility.
- ⌘ Identify areas that may be putting children at risk of being exposed to environmental dangers.



# 5-Star Environmental Recognition for Child Care Facilities

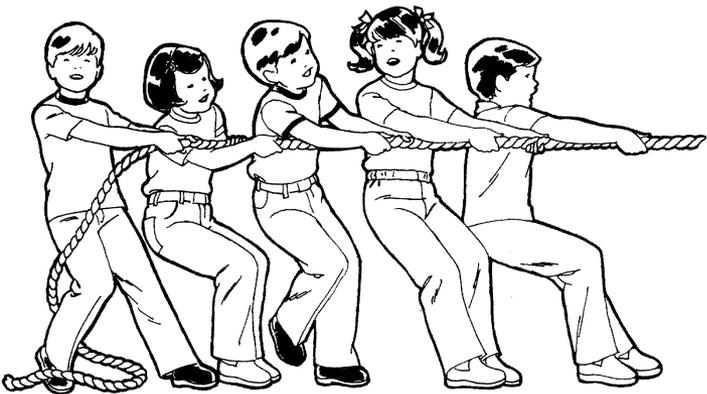
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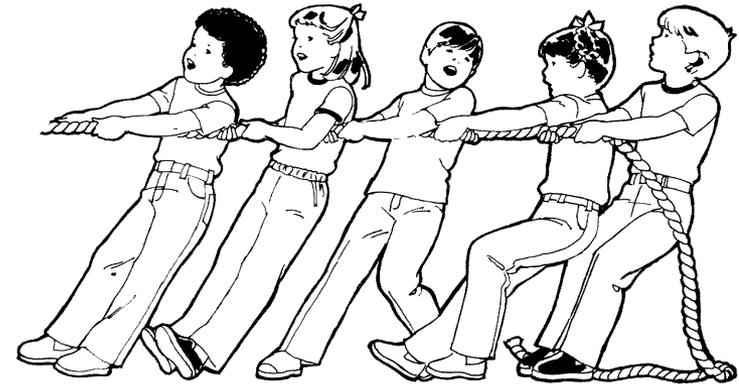
- ⌘ Recognizes those facilities going beyond compliance

# Why should a facility participate?

⌘ Educational Tool



⌘ Marketing Strategy



⌘ Free Stuff!!

# Three Core Issues

⌘ Environmental Threats

⌘ Health and Safety

⌘ Environmental  
Stewardship

– See application



# Protecting Children from Environmental Threats



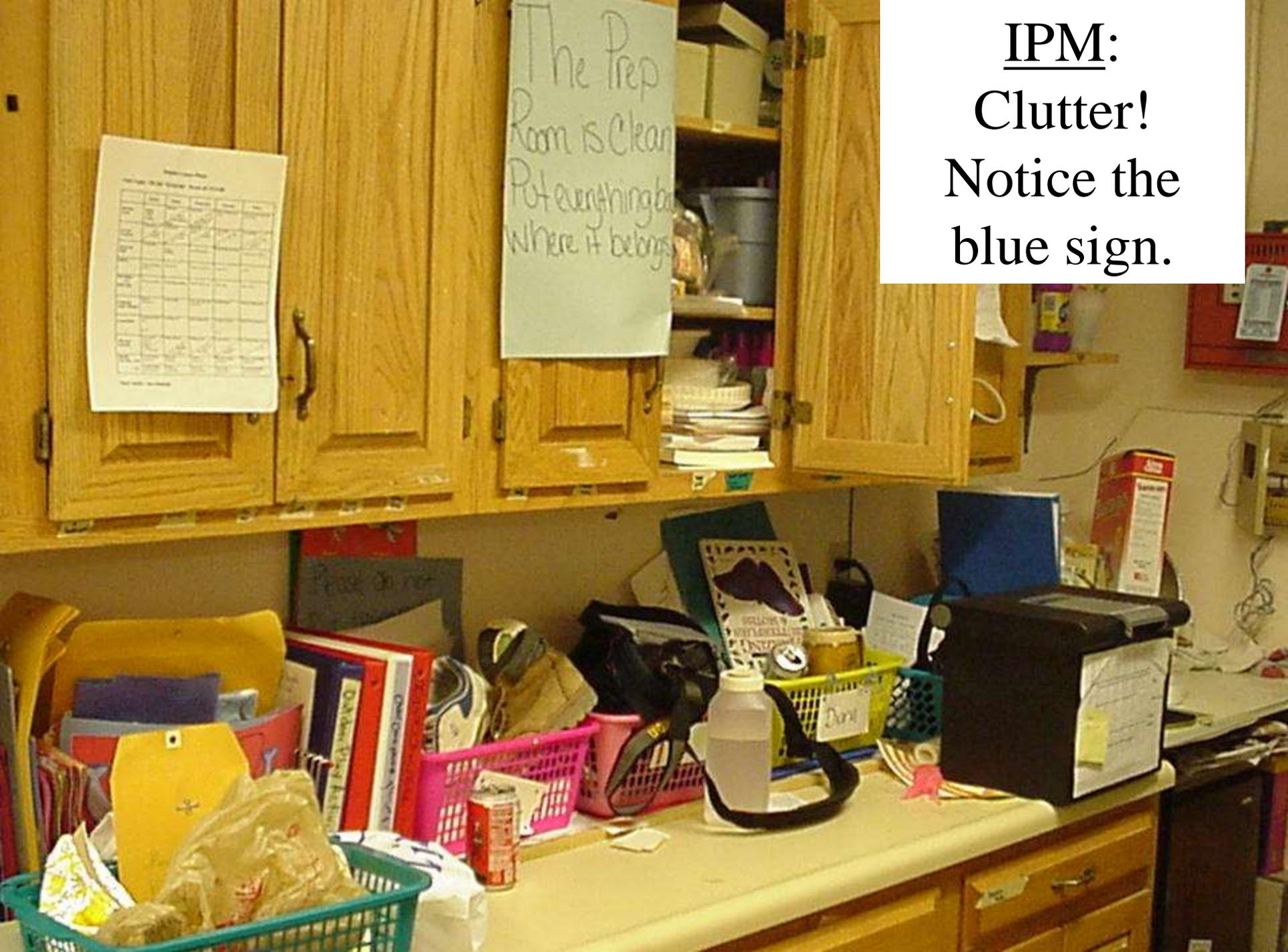
- ⌘ Lead
- ⌘ Mercury
- ⌘ Radon
- ⌘ Asbestos
- ⌘ PCBs
- ⌘ Pesticides
- ⌘ Secondhand Smoke
- ⌘ Carbon Monoxide



IPM:

Areas under and around dumpster should be cleaned regularly.

IPM:  
Clutter!  
Notice the  
blue sign.





## IPM:

More clutter! Attracts mice and spiders such as the brown recluse.





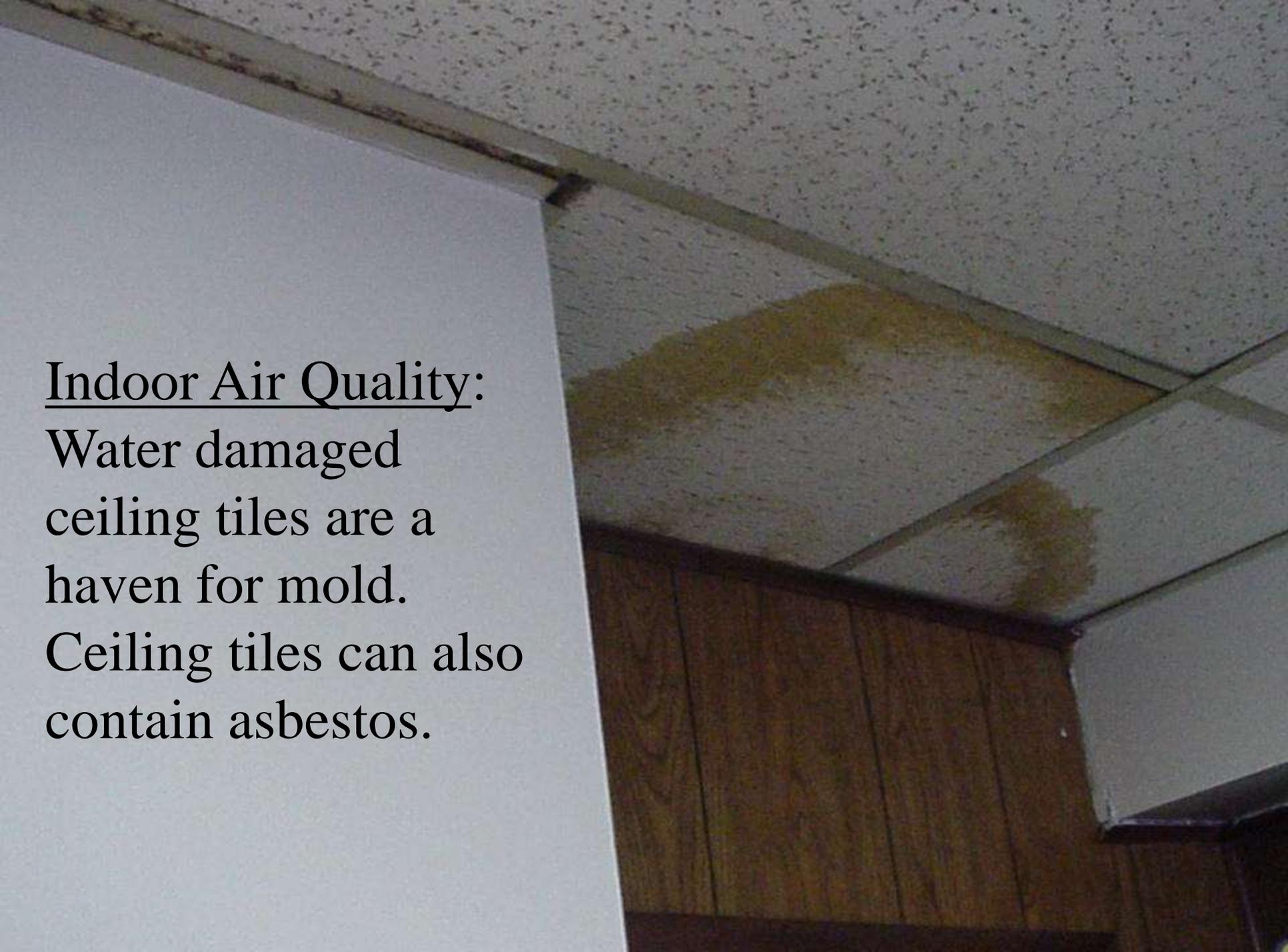
## IPM:

Mouse poison found in a childcare facility. Mice will pick up pieces and trail them throughout classrooms where children may mistake it for candy.

Indoor Air Quality:

Water damaged ceiling tiles are a haven for mold.

Ceiling tiles can also contain asbestos.





## Indoor Air Quality:

Mold is very common in childcare facilities. It triggers asthma and allergies and some types of mold are even deadly.



Chemical Safety:  
Labeling Chemicals (Bleach Bottles)

## Asthma:

Pets with fur can cause allergies and asthma attacks.  
Their food also attracts pests.





Environmental Stewardship:  
Reusable dishes instead of styrofoam.

# For more information.....



⌘ [www.IN.gov/idem/childcare](http://www.IN.gov/idem/childcare)

⌘ On IDEM's 5-Star Program

☒ Karen Teliha 317-233-5555