

GreenCare for Children News

March 2010

With earth day around the corner everyone is thinking about how to live a greener life. GreenCare for Children established concrete steps for parents, child care providers, and community members to create healthier environments for children. Being green means being a steward of the earth, and is founded upon raising our children in toxin-free environments, as well as teaching them how to live simple, green lifestyles.

Green is a way of making decisions, being efficient, and balancing short-term and long-term costs and benefits- in both dollars and health.

(Excerpted from the [Go Green Rating Scale for Early Childhood Settings.](#))

If you haven't taken the GreenCare Pledge yet, go to www.GreenCareforChildren.org and take it today! Make a personal commitment to living a greener life.

For more information about GreenCare for Children visit us at **Earth Day, April 17th and 18th**. Our booth will be in the one with the **Green Wall of Fame** featuring our GreenCare Standards and Providers! Come check it out.



Community Environmental Council's
Santa Barbara
EARTH DAY
Festival



What is Green?

GreenCare for Children defines "green" as safe, sustainable, and functional. Green can apply to a product, program, process, or site.

Safe in the green context means the elimination of exposure to toxins rather than to physical threats to safety. A green program will reduce or eliminate exposure to contaminants (such as pesticides or harsh cleaning products) and to known health challenges (such as respiratory irritants or allergens).

Sustainable suggests the use of current resources to make sure our children-and theirs and theirs-will have the same quality of resources. There are three things that make a program sustainable: economic viability, environmental health, and community responsibility. For example, you manage a successful business and are responsible to your community by paying fair wages, charging fair tuition, and acting as a helpful citizen. Sustainability extends beyond your early childhood facility and encompasses the social and environmental impacts of the products you use, including their manufacturing and disposal.

Functional is a fundamental part of green. You might buy a diaper made from fibers spun by organic-grain-fed caterpillars, but if it doesn't work, it isn't green. A product or practice that is efficient and durable and that satisfies the desired task with limited waste fits into the definition of green in this program. Conditions such as natural lighting and efficient ventilation are elements of green building because they contribute to a functional home, office, or classroom. Cleaning products that are packaged in recyclable bulk containers that do not pollute during manufacturing, pose harm from contact or inhalation, or pollute water sources when disposed of-and that work well-are part of green living.

For more green tips and information go to www.GreenCareforChildren.org.

What Our GreenCare Providers Are Saying



Being a GreenCare Provider means making the commitment to the children and families in my program that I will provide healthy, chemical and hazard free environments for them during the time they are in my care.

One of the greatest benefits of GreenCare for Children is that it provides a framework and guidelines through which I can evaluate my program and set goals for making improvements. GreenCare focuses on what positive things we can do in our community for the betterment and care of the lives of our children.

- Danielle Monroy, Owner Creative Care for Children



Take the GreenCare Pledge Today!

GreenCare for Children has developed 25 environmental standards that will help protect the children in your care from dangerous chemicals and other health hazards. By pledging to uphold at least 18 of the 25 GreenCare Standards, you qualify as a GreenCare Provider and will receive special local promotion.

You don't have to be a child care provider to uphold the GreenCare Pledge. Parents and community members who care for children can now evaluate the environmental health of their home by taking the GreenCare Pledge. Tell the providers, parents, and community members you work with to [take the pledge today](#).



Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the GreenCare Family! Please forward this email to other child care providers, parents, and community members and encourage them to take the first steps in maintaining a GreenCare environment by taking the Pledge.

Let's make Santa Barbara County the greenest early care and education setting in the nation!

Sincerely,

Phil Boise, Director

Holly Goldberg, Program Manager

GreenCare for Children
www.GreenCareforChildren.org

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