WHAT IS IPM AND WHY SHOULD YOU USE IT?
WHAT IS IPM?

IPM is a commonsense approach to managing and reducing pests & pesticides. It is healthier for people and the environment and can be cheaper than conventional pest control (which relies on regular pesticide applications).
IPM

Is a strategy for managing pests and reducing pesticide use through:

- Prevention
- Monitoring
- Identification
- Action levels
- Combination of techniques
Prevention

Means removing conditions that favor pests in your facility

Mop up water to deny pests a drink

Get rid of clutter to deny pests a place to hide

Install door sweeps to deny pests entrance into your facility

Get rid of food, water, shelter, and access

Good sanitation is key to preventing pests
Monitoring

Where are the pests?

- Use monitoring traps
- Look for pest evidence
- Have there been pest sightings?

Is control necessary based on the pests observed?

Recordkeeping is essential

- A monitoring program is only as useful as its recordkeeping system
- Keep records of monitoring information, decisions made, actions taken, and results
Identify your pest

- The first step is to accurately identify the problem species
- Effective management tools vary with species
- Diagnostic tables in UCIPM books (can be ordered online)
- The UC IPM Web site has lots of identification tools http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu
- UC Cooperative Extension offices: biologists can help with ID
- Agricultural Commissioner’s offices/CDFA: agricultural biologists often have ID experience
In most cases, a couple of ants in a classroom is okay, below the level where you need to do something (you haven’t reached the action level).

A whole bunch of ants? In a classroom you need to do something (you’ve reached the action level) but what about outside? Probably not. Ants outside are beneficial; they aerate the soil and scavenge for debris, dead insects, etc.

One yellowjacket can sting and is particularly a danger to allergic children and adults, so you need to do something about just one yellowjacket.
IPM uses a combination of techniques to manage pests:

Physical – using barriers, traps, or physical removal to prevent or reduce pest problems

Cultural- changing behavior to reduce pest populations

Biological- The use of living natural enemies-- predators, parasites and pathogens-- to reduce pest problems

Least Hazardous Chemical- the use of a pesticide to reduce pest populations or activity
1. **Get organized.** Clutter is the number one reason for pest infestations. Clutter provides cockroaches, ants, spiders, and mice with an undisturbed breeding habitat.

2. **Get rid of cardboard.** Cardboard boxes, particularly in kitchen areas, provide a favorite living place for cockroaches (and mice).

3. **Keep all food products in sealed, plastic containers.** Good food storage practices will discourage mice, cockroaches, and other pests from living in your kitchen.

4. **Seal all doors, windows and cracks and crevices.** Sealing the building provides energy savings and denies pests entry.

5. **Clean deep.** Sanitation is the key to eliminating many pests.

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*Adapted from the IPM Technical Resource Center*
How to Improve Your Child Care Center:

Get rid of clutter like old paper signs & card board; it provides shelter and food.

Remove conditions that favor pests: mop up water, & sweep up food crumbs.

Install door sweeps & seal cracks in windows.
HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CHILD CARE CENTER:

Restrict eating to certain areas and keep food in sealed plastic containers.

Fit garbage cans with tight lids and empty at the end of each day.
IPM IS NOT...

- Routine spraying of pesticides by staff or pest management company
- Out of sight, out of mind pest control
WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT MANAGING PESTS?
**Ants**

- Most common pest nuisance
- May bite or sting (although most species rarely do either)
- Long trails of ants may cause concern among building occupants
- Can contaminate food

**Wasps**

- Painful sting
- Some people are allergic to the venom and can go into anaphylactic shock

**House flies**

- Potential vectors of salmonella bacteria (responsible for food poisoning and gastric infections).
- They may also carry a variety of other disease-causing pathogens, such as those causing diarrhea, typhoid fever, dysentery, and intestinal worms.
**Consequences of Not Managing...**

**Cockroaches**
- Cause stains and unpleasant odors & destroy fabric and paper
- Implicated in the spread of typhoid and dysentery
- Cockroach waste can trigger an asthma attack in sensitive people

**Rats and Mice**
- Parasites on rats transmit dozens of diseases
- Rats can chew through lead & plastic water pipes, gas pipes, electric wiring, and garbage cans which create fire hazards
**Why use IPM?**

**Reduces Pesticide use:** Using a combination of IPM techniques can reduce pesticide use. Pesticides are used only when needed.

**Reduces Pest Problems:** Prevent pest problems without pesticides by getting organized and by deep cleaning.

**Improves cost-effectiveness:** Treating only when and where necessary reduces the amount of pesticides used and the number of service calls, saving money on pest control contracts.
**Why use IPM?**

**Improves community Relations**
Parents and staff generally feel more comfortable about pest management if they know you are using safe and effective IPM techniques.

**Reduces potential liability**
Both pesticide use and the pests they manage have the potential to cause health problems, especially in young children.
Why use IPM?

Creates a safer environment: An effective IPM program lowers children's exposure risks and lowers the amount of pesticides released into the environment.
Young children are uniquely vulnerable to the effects of pesticide exposure because:

- Children's bodies are still developing and may be more easily harmed by environmental exposures to toxins, including pesticides.
- Children eat more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air than adults in proportion to their body mass.
- Young children crawl and place their hands and objects in their mouths—increasing their potential exposure to environmental contaminants.
- Children have a long life expectancy during which the consequences of exposures to toxins could become evident.
IPM is an approach to controlling pests in safer, more effective, and longer-lasting ways.

Contact DPR’s Child Care IPM Program for more information about how IPM can help your child care facility to “Grow Up Green.”
Email: bmessenger@cdpr.ca.gov
Phone: 916-324-4077