

Choose Safe Places

What is Choose Safe Places?

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Choose Safe Places Program offers **FREE** consultation services to help voluntarily participating child care providers keep children safe from toxic chemicals and other hazards in the environment.

Choosing a safe place for your child care center is essential. There's more to consider than cost and classroom size!

Why should I participate in Choose Safe Places?

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families requires every licensed and certified child care program to comply with safety regulations. Some of these regulations reduce chemical exposure, like safe handling and storage of hazardous materials and required testing of private well water.

The DHS's Choose Safe Places Program builds on these protections. Choose Safe Places helps participating providers check for nearby contamination sites and other environmental hazards when they choose a new location.

What can I expect from participation?

After you complete and submit a Property Checklist (see Page 2), Choose Safe Places will conduct a virtual assessment of the location of your proposed child care center for environmental hazards. We will then e-mail you a report with findings and recommendations.* Providers can use this information to make healthier spaces for their children and staff. Some of the environmental hazards Choose Safe Places looks for include:



Past uses of the property that might have left behind harmful chemicals.



Lead in paint.



Movement of harmful chemicals onto the property from other properties.



Contaminants in drinking water.

Children are more sensitive to the effects of harmful substances in the environment. That's why it's important to protect them!

Ready to participate? See Page 2! ➔

*Legal Disclaimer: Responses to the Property Checklist are provided as general guidance only and to increase overall safety awareness. This information is not intended to constitute legal or medical advice and you should use it at your own risk. DHS accepts no responsibility or liability for damages arising from use of this information. If a more thorough investigation of the property is warranted, the user should seek the advice of appropriate professionals. DHS does not make any warranty, express or implied; assume any legal liability for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information herein; represent that its use would not infringe privately owned rights; nor assume any liability with respect to the use of, or for damages resulting from the use of any information, method, or process disclosed in this publication.

I want to participate. Now what?

Complete and submit the Property Checklist below by:

- Completing the [online submission form](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/choosesafeplaces) on our website at dhs.wisconsin.gov/choosesafeplaces OR
- Emailing a photo or scanned copy of the completed checklist to DHSCSP@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Questions? Give us a call at 608-266-1120 or email us at DHSCSP@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Please expect an emailed report in two to three weeks.



The Property Checklist

1 YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION Please write clearly!

Your name: _____ Your phone number: (____) _____
Your email address: _____

2 INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR REGULATED CHILD CARE APPLICATION

What are you applying for? ☐ Licensure for a group center ☐ Licensure for a family center
☐ Licensure for a day camp ☐ Certification for a family center

How many TOTAL children will you serve per day? (Example: 4 children per shift x 2 shifts per day = 8) _____

Are you currently working with a child care pre-licensing specialist or certifier? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes: What is the first and last name of the person you are working with? _____

Which child care resource and referral agency are they from? _____

3 INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROPOSED CHILD CARE CENTER

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: WI Zip code: _____

Will this center operate inside a home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you rent or own the space for your center? ☐ Rent ☐ Own

Have you tested the center for radon? ☐ Yes ☐ No

When was the building constructed? ☐ 1979 or before ☐ 1980-1986 ☐ 1987-present ☐ Not sure

What type of water system will supply the property? ☐ Municipal/public ☐ Private well ☐ Not sure

How was the space used in the past (e.g., home, dental office, church, dry cleaners)? _____

