

Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education Program



Pennsylvania's Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (PA CSPECE) program helps ensure that child care facilities are located in safe places. If a facility is on or near a hazardous location, children and staff could be exposed to harmful chemicals from the surrounding environment. The program partners with the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to ensure child care facilities are located in safe locations, and that any potential environmental exposures of concern are prevented or minimized.

Why is choosing a safe location for a child care facility important?

Exposure to harmful chemicals at a young age can greatly affect a child's development and health. Children ingest and inhale more pollutants than adults because of their size and behavior.

What should I consider when choosing a location for child care facility?

- Building age for lead or asbestos contamination from building built before 1978.
- Former and nearby use of the facility, such as dry cleaners, autobody, print shops, nail/hair salon, funeral home, agricultural lands, etc.
- Radon test results – nearly 3 in 4 PA counties are in high radon zones.
- Access to a safe drinking water source.



Did you know?

In 2004, a child care facility in New Jersey was built on a lot previously used as a mercury thermometer factory that was not cleaned or remediated; the child care facility was closed in 2006.



Good news, PA CSPECE is here to help!

If you are interested in participating in our safe siting program, please complete the [short survey](#) to the best of your ability. If you do not know the answer to any survey questions, we recommend you talk to the property owner, your [local health department](#), the town planner or zoning office, or PA's CSPECE program. PA CSPECE will evaluate your survey responses and the location using a database of known contamination sources and provide a letter with recommendations to reduce/prevent harmful exposure. Providers can receive a certificate of acknowledgment for participation in CSPECE, if no known harmful exposures are identified.

**For more information and [FAQ for providers](#), please visit our website [CSPECE \(pa.gov\)](#)
Email: ChooseSafePlaces@pa.gov or Call 717-787-3350**