



Children's
Environmental
Health
Network

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Children's Environmental Health Network first recipient of Environmental Health Innovation Award

WASHINGTON DC – The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) and its Eco-Healthy Child Care® program (EHCC) were presented with the first Environmental Health Innovation Award today at the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) annual conference.

The EHCC program supports child care providers in creating child care settings that are as environmentally healthy as possible.

“We are honored and delighted to be recognized for this cutting edge program,” said CEHN Executive Director Nsedu Witherspoon. “The child care environment can have a profound impact on a child's health and development. The Network's scientists and clinicians identified the need for this program once we realized that environmental health in this setting has been largely ignored.”

The Eco-Healthy Child Care® program (EHCC) brings basic concepts and practical steps for healthier environments to a professional community -- child care providers -- who have a tremendous impact on the health of the environments in which millions of U.S. children spend a major portion of their time. EHCC offers a unique endorsement and marketing model for participating child cares, as well as training and technical assistance.

“Hundreds of child care providers have already been endorsed by the Eco-Healthy program, which means healthier environments for thousands of children,” said Marilyn Krajicek, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Director of the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. “As a result, we are seeing increased awareness among child care professionals of the impact of the child care environment on health and development.”

EHCC-endorsed facilities include those operated by the U.S. General Services Administration, Children's Creative Learning Centers (CCLC), and Bright Horizons Family Solutions.

The Environmental Health Innovation Award was created to recognize a NEHA member or organization for creating a new idea, practice, or product that has had a positive impact on improving the environment/public health and the quality of life. Change that promotes or improves the environment is the foundation of this award.

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Ad one/CEHN Innovation Award

“We commend NEHA for creating this award. Emerging science is telling us much about the links between environmental exposures, such as chemicals inside a home or child care center, and a child’s health and ability to learn. Yet the general public seems unaware of these links. This award can help,” said Cynthia Bearer, M.D., Ph.D., CEHN Board Chair and Cobey Professor of Neonatology at the University Of Maryland School Of Medicine.

CEHN, a national non-profit whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental hazards and promote a healthy environment, has been working for more than 20 years in the areas of child-protective policy, education, and the support of pediatric peer-reviewed research.