



Eco-Healthy Child Care

Eco-Healthy Child Care is a national program created by the Oregon Environmental Council to ensure that child care settings are as healthy, safe and green as possible by reducing children's exposure to toxins.



Art Supplies

Some art and craft supplies contain toxic ingredients, including possible human carcinogens, creating a significant risk to the health and well-being of children. Art supplies containing toxic chemicals can also produce fumes that trigger asthma, allergies, headaches, and nausea. It is important to purchase and use supplies that have been certified as non-toxic. Schoolchildren in grade six and lower should only use non-toxic art and craft materials.

Tips for Choosing and Using Art and Craft Supplies:

1. Use only non-toxic art supplies approved by the Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (AMCI).
2. Read labels and identify precautions.
3. Keep the workspace well ventilated by opening windows and using fans, or work outside.
4. Do not allow children to eat or drink while using art and craft materials.

5. Ensure children wash their hands thoroughly after using art and craft supplies.

Non-toxic Art Supplies Resources on the Internet

- Art & Creative Materials Institute:
www.acminet.org
- Teacher's classroom checklist:
www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/pdfs/kit/checklists/teacherchklistbkgd.pdf
- Guidelines for the safe use of art and craft materials:
www.oehha.ca.gov/education/art/artguide.html
- Games, Arts, and Crafts:
www.checnet.org/healthouse/education/articles-detail.asp?Main_ID=137

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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