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**COMPONENT: FACILITIES, MATERIALS, AND EQUIPMENT**

**SUBJECT: SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS**

**PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:** Highland Rim Head Start will provide a center-based environment free of toxins, such as cigarette smoke, lead, pesticides, herbicides, and other air pollutants as well as soil and water contaminants. Agency will ensure children are not present during the spraying of pesticides or herbicides.

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE:**

The Facilities Manager will ensure the necessary measures are taken to see that all facilities, playgrounds, and vehicles are free of toxins to include the following:

- Prohibit the use of tobacco in all spaces used by the program, including classrooms, staff offices, kitchens, restrooms, parent and staff meeting rooms, hallways, outdoor play areas, and agency vehicles;
- Protect children from the harmful effects of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or other potentially toxic or unhealthy chemicals by;
  - Having pesticides applied by a licensed exterminator in strict compliance with label instructions;
  - Removing children from the areas being treated and ensuring that potential poisons are not applied to surfaces that can be touched or mouthed by children;
  - Educating families and staff about the dangers of pesticides and other toxic substances they may be working with and the steps taken to minimize the exposure of children at the center and their homes.
- Work with health officials to determine inspections which should be conducted for environmental hazards, such as asbestos, radon, formaldehyde and;
- Arrange for inspections and subsequent removal of any environmental or health hazards only by certified or licensed contractors.