



Choose Safe Places

GEORGIA SAFE SITING PROGRAM

The Georgia Safe Siting Program (GSSP) uses education and awareness to help childcare center operators make safer siting decisions to protect staff and children from harmful environmental hazards and chemicals.

What is safe siting?

When exploring potential sites for a child care center, you may not be aware that children and staff can possibly come into contact with harmful chemical hazards such as arsenic, lead, pesticides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in those locations. The location – or site – of a child care center can influence the types and amounts of chemical exposures to children while under care.

For safe siting, consider locating a property or building free from threat of potential exposures to hazardous chemicals. Do this before or early in the process of getting established and licensed.

What does safe siting include?

Even if child care centers meet current state licensing regulations, they may be located in places where children and staff can be exposed to environmental contamination.

There are 4 key elements to consider before choosing a location for a new child care center:



Former use of the site.

Were toxic chemicals previously produced, used, stored or disposed of at the site?



Nearby sites and activities.

Do any neighboring businesses currently use toxic chemicals?



The presence of naturally-occurring hazards.

Do potentially harmful, naturally-occurring substances, such as radon or arsenic, exist on the property?



Access to safe drinking water.

Does the site have a well that will be used for providing drinking water? Has this well been tested for drinking water quality standards? Is the water safe to drink?

What can I do to ensure my location is safe?

Selecting the right location for your child care center can protect the health of children and staff and minimize the liability risk to your business. Our DPH voluntary screening process can help you make an informed decision on whether a location is safe for use.

- Review our Safe Siting Georgia Program Guide to ensure your childcare center is located in a safe place www.dph.georgia.gov/georgia-safe-siting-program
- Complete the [Property History Questionnaire](#) to screen your proposed childcare center location.
- Receive a personalized report about your site. Our staff will review your responses, along with additional information about your proposed site, and provide you with a personalized report.

Helpful Resources

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
www.dec.state.ga.us/

Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
www.pehsu.net/region4

Children's Environmental Health Network
www.cehn.org/

For More Information

Georgia Department of Public Health

Environmental Health Section

Georgia Safe Siting Program

(404) 657-6534

www.dph.georgia.gov/georgia-safe-siting-program