



# ADVENTURES WITH RITA

## **AWR PEST CONTROL POLICY**

### **PURPOSE**

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The management of Adventures with Rita is committed to providing a safe environment for the children in our care. We seek to prevent children from being exposed to pests and pesticides. Exposure to pests (insects, cockroaches, rats, mice, etc.), pest residue, and the chemicals used to control them can aggravate or cause health problems for children and staff. Allergic reactions to pest residues and the absorption of chemicals used for pests control often are more serious for children due to their smaller size and proximity to the floor. The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach minimizes the exposure of children and staff to pesticides, and includes a variety of non-chemical and chemical methods to prevent and eradicate pests. While pesticides may be used to remediate infestations of pests (such as insects, weeds, and rodents) that may be found in the facility and its surrounding grounds, only the least toxic products will be considered and combined with non-chemical methods.

### **POLICY**

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Adventures with Rita will implement and practice IPM to manage pests in the building and on the grounds to minimize the exposure of pests and pesticides to children and staff. As such, we commit to the following:

1. *Contact* –Ms. Tiffany V Jackson is the designated IPM Coordinator for this facility. This person will act as a liaison between the building occupants and the pest management professional.
2. *Maintenance and Sanitation* – Maintenance, remediation, and sanitation will be conducted in a timely manner to prevent pest access and harborage (water leaks repaired, holes or other access routes sealed, proper food storage, clutter eliminated, etc.).
3. *Pesticide Use and Storage* –
  - a. Regularly scheduled applications of pesticides are NOT permitted.
  - b. Storage of pesticides in the facility is NOT permitted.
  - c. Staff are prohibited from bringing pesticides into the facility (no residential or any other pesticides allowed).
  - d. Only certified pesticide applicators or registered technicians that have working knowledge of IPM principles and practices may apply pesticides. Any pest management professional hired to provide pest management or other services must comply with this IPM program and notification policy and be knowledgeable about IPM practices. **Pest management professionals must refrain from routine pesticide spraying, provide detailed service reports with each visit and give recommendations for pest prevention.**
  - e. When necessary, use of least-hazardous pesticides may be considered after nonchemical management practices have failed. Pesticides will not be applied when children are present at the facility. Toys and other items mouthed or handled by the children will be removed from the area before pesticides are applied. Children may only return to the treated area after two hours of a pesticide application or as specified on the pesticide label, whichever time is greater. In the event of an emergency where pests pose an immediate health threat to children and staff (e.g. wasps) and pesticides are applied, ensure that children will not return to the treated area within two hours of a pesticide application or as specified on the pesticide label, whichever time is greater.
4. *Head Lice* - Pesticide applications to the facility for head lice are ineffective and thus are prohibited by this policy. Non-chemical control options (combs, etc.) are used instead.
5. *Notification* - Parents and staff will be notified of a pesticide application at the facility at least three operational days in advance except in emergencies where pests pose an immediate health threat to children or staff (bees). Parents and staff will be notified as soon as possible when advance notice is not provided and include an explanation of the emergency, the reason for the late notice and the name of pesticide applied.
6. *Recordkeeping* - All records of pesticide applications and advance notices will be available upon request for at least 90 days.

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## EXEMPTIONS

This policy does not apply to the following exempted uses of pesticides:

- Germicides, disinfectants, bactericides, sanitizing agents, and chemicals used in normal cleaning activities;
- Personal insect repellents applied to the person with parental consent; and
- Gel bait or manufactured enclosed insecticides where children do not have access to the bait. **(Granular baits and rodent baits are not exempt.)**

### COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR STAFF AND PARENTS:

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- The executive director will cover policies, plans, and procedures with all new staff (paid and volunteer) during orientation training. They will sign that they have read, understand and agree to abide by the content of the policies.
- During enrollment this policy will be reviewed with the parents. Parents will sign that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the content of the policies.
- A copy of all policies will be available during all hours of operation to staff and parents in the policy handbook located in the main office.
- Parents may receive a copy of the policy at anytime upon request. A summary of this policy will be included in the parent handbook.
- Parents and staff will receive written notification of any updates.

#### References:

Purdue University: [www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/outreach/schoolipm/](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/outreach/schoolipm/)

Indiana Department of Environmental Management: [www.in.gov/idem](http://www.in.gov/idem) or 888-233-7745

Caring for Our Children – <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>

**Reviewed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Director/Owner

\_\_\_\_\_ IPM Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_ Health Professional (physician, nurse, health department, EMS, Health consultant)

\_\_\_\_\_ Staff member

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (parent, advisory committee, police, CPS)

**Effective Date and Review Date:**

This policy is effective \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ and will be reviewed annually by \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ or sooner if needed. Parents and staff will be notified of any upcoming policy review.

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