Environmental Health in Group Prenatal Care: Asthma Activity Kit Description

Item

Activity Use

Cockroach

Asthma Impact: Many people do not realize that cockroaches both cause and trigger asthma. Use integrated pest management (IPM) to control rodents and other pests. Remember "EEK!" – exclude, eliminate, keep away.

Solution:

- Monitor roaches in the home using inexpensive "sticky traps"

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ItemActivity UseFood containerAsthma Impact:

Item	Activity Use
Plug-in air freshener	Asthma Impact: Fragrances such as perfumes, sprays and air fresheners, and even cleaning products are all common triggers.
	Solution: Avoid using air fresheners to mask odor. Instead, eliminate the source of the odors (remove garbage, clean regularly). When necessary, try to use alternative "fresheners" such as baking soda, or air fresheners made with natural ingredients like essential oils.
	Other notes: Most air fresheners/fragrance products contain chemicals (like phthalates) that may cause reproductive toxicity or other problems.
Scented candle	Asthma Impact: In addition to scent, smoke is a common asthma trigger.
	Solution: Avoid burning candles in homes with asthmatics who are sensitive to smoke and fragrances.
	Other notes: Candles pose a significant fire hazard. Never leave candles unattended while burning, and make sure matches/fire starters are stored out of children's reach. Avoid foreign-made candles with metal wicks, as they may contain lead.

Stuffed animal /P AM