



# Best Practices for Radon Testing at Child Care Homes & Centers


State law now requires all licensed day care centers and homes to be tested for radon.

**Radon** is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Currently, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) estimates that “nearly 1,200 Illinois citizens die from radon-related lung cancer each year.” Through this photo journal, Kane County Healthy Places Coalition offers the following best practices for child care centers and homes to promote radon awareness and testing among their families.



**1. Complete a radon test.** At the time of child care license renewal, arrange for your center/home to complete a radon test and display the results for parents to view in accordance with Illinois Statute effective January 1, 2013.

**2. Give radon letter to parents.** The parent letter explains the dangers of radon and how parents can protect both themselves and their child. The parent letter can be found [here](#) in both English and Spanish.




*Dear Parents,*

Radon is a gas that occurs naturally in the soil. High levels can build up in homes and buildings. You cannot see, smell, or taste radon gas. The only way to know if radon is present is to test for it. In order to protect your child, we have tested our child care center. Our radon level falls below the level of concern! Now, we encourage you to test your home! Why?

Almost 50% of homes and buildings tested in Kane County have high levels of radon. Radon causes 1,200 deaths in Illinois each year. It is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Take action now to protect your family!

Radon test kits can be purchased from area hardware stores. Kits can also be purchased from the Kane County Health Department for \$15.

For information on purchasing test kits from the Kane County Health Department visit:  
[www.kanehealth.com/healthy\\_places.htm](http://www.kanehealth.com/healthy_places.htm)



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**3. Involve the kids.** A coloring sheet is a great way to involve kids and facilitate additional parent knowledge of radon. The Kane County Healthy Places Coalition has provided these coloring sheets in both English and Spanish. Click [here](#) to print them.



**4. Give information on radon test kits.** The flyers have additional information on radon and radon testing. Click [here](#) for the flyers in both English and Spanish. If income eligible, parents may be able to receive free radon test kits through Community Contacts or Joseph Corporation.



**5. Follow-up survey.** Consider doing a follow-up survey with parents to see if they have tested their homes for radon. Conduct the survey six to twelve months after the radon awareness promotion program. Click [here](#) for the survey questions in both English and Spanish.

**6. Radon awareness promotion for parents.** This could be done by requesting a presentation through Kane County Health Department's Radon Speakers Bureau. Speakers can be requested [here](#). To increase parent participation, consider offering a raffle prize.



The Healthy Places Coalition would like to give a special thanks to Two Rivers Head Start for helping us create this photo journal on radon awareness.

Click [here](#) to view their presentation.

[www.kanehealth.com](http://www.kanehealth.com)

**Kane County Healthy Places Coalition**

March 2014