



# Environmental Justice Achievement Award

Community-Based Organization



## Safer Pest Control Project



Kid-friendly characters for SPCP promotional campaign to raise awareness of integrated pest management.

**EPA is pleased to present a 2008 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to the Safer Pest Control Project (SPCP) for its work to reduce children's pesticide exposure in childcare facilities.**

SPCP led an effort in Illinois to become the fifth state to require integrated pest management (IPM) in licensed childcare facilities via legislation passed in 2003. Before this legislation passed, 3,000 licensed childcare facilities that care for more than 285,000 children across Illinois were routinely spraying pesticides and exposing our most vulnerable citizens to their effects. In 2004, SPCP created the Partnership for Childcare IPM to provide training to organizations and individuals that provide continuing education for childcare providers. SPCP teaches providers to stop routine pesticide spraying in favor of IPM, a proven, effective, and economical method of pest control that eliminates the root cause of pest problems by using a variety of non-toxic measures, such as improved maintenance and sanitation, to minimize pests' access to food, water, and shelter. From late 2004 to early 2007, SPCP trained 1,400 individuals serving 45,000 children. Results from a survey of childcare facilities trained by SPCP show that IPM knowledge increased by 52 percent after this training.

SPCP is the only organization in Illinois providing education and training to help childcare facilities implement IPM. It is dedicated to reducing the public health risks and environmental impacts of pesticides, while effectively controlling pests. SPCP's programs focus on improving the health of the most vulnerable populations: children, families living in low-income communities, and others with disproportionate exposure to environmental toxins.

