

Statement of Deficiencies

1509.A.1.: Child Abuse and Neglect Policy

Not Met

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- a. As mandated reporters, all staff and owners shall report any suspected abuse or neglect of a child to the Louisiana Child Protection Statewide Hotline 1-855-4LA-KIDS (1-855-452-5437);
- b. An early learning center shall not delay the reporting of suspected abuse or neglect to the Child Protection Statewide Hotline in order to conduct an internal investigation to verify the abuse or neglect allegations; and
- c. An early learning center shall not require staff to report suspected abuse or neglect to the center or management prior to reporting it to the Child Protection Statewide Hotline.

Finding:

1509.A.1. Based on interview(s)/record review/observations: Although mandated reporters, staff delayed the report of suspected abuse/neglect of a child to the Child Protection Statewide Hot-line in order to conduct an internal investigation to verify the abuse or neglect allegations as evidence by on 12/21/2020, at 11:08 AM, S7 reported observing S6 swat C1, age two-years-old, on the bottom to S2. S1 and S2 investigated the allegation and verified it did occur as a result of C1 playing in the trashcan; however, there was no excessive force used. The allegation was reported to Child Welfare on 12/22/2020 at 11:15 AM.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 1/6/2021, S1 and S2 stated they plan to complete a staff training regarding this regulation to ensure this deficiency is not cited again.

1509.A.8.a.&b.: Behavior Management Policy

Not Met

1509.A.8.a.&b.: Behavior Management Policy

Each center shall develop and implement a written behavior management policy describing the methods of behavior guidance and management that shall be used at the center.

The behavior management policy shall prohibit children from being subject to any of the following:

- i. physical or corporal punishment which includes but is not limited to yelling, slapping, spanking, yanking, shaking, pinching, exposure to extreme temperatures or other measures producing physical pain, putting anything in the mouth of a child, requiring a child to exercise, or placing a child in an uncomfortable position.
- ii. verbal abuse, which includes but is not limited to using offensive or profane language, telling a child to "shut up", or making derogatory remarks about children or family members of children in the presence of children;
- iii. the threat of a prohibited action even if there is no intent to follow through with the threat;
- iv. being disciplined by another child;
- v. being bullied by another child;
- vi. being deprived of food or beverages;
- vii. being restrained by devices such as high chairs or feeding tables for disciplinary purposes; and
- viii. having active play time withheld for disciplinary purposes, except timeout may be used during active play time for an infraction incurred during the playtime.

Finding:

1509.A.8.a&b: Based on interviews and record review on 1/6/2021, S6 used a prohibited method of discipline as she subjected a child to physical punishment/corporal punishment. On 12/21/2020, at 11:08 AM, S7 reported observing S6 swat C1, age two-years-old, on the bottom to S2. S1 and S2 investigated the allegation and verified S6 swatted C1 softly on the bottom as a result of him playing in the trashcan. S6 was placed on unpaid leave for 7 days.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 1/6/2021, S1 and S2 stated S6 has been moved from the two-year old classroom to the one-year old classroom. A re-training is also being planned to ensure this deficiency is not cited again.