

Statement of Deficiencies

1713.A.&B.&C.: Supervision

Not Met

1713.A.&B.&C.: A: Children shall be supervised at all times in the center, on the playground, on field trips, on non-vehicular excursions, and during all water activities and water play activities.

B: Children shall not be left alone in any room, (except the restroom as indicated in Subsection G of this Section or when being provided services by therapeutic professionals, as defined in §103), outdoors, or in vehicles, even momentarily, without staff present.

C: A staff person shall be assigned to supervise specific children whose names and whereabouts that staff person shall know and with whom the staff person shall be physically present. Staff shall be able to state how many children are in their care at all times.

Finding:

1713.A.B.&C.: Based on Specialist's review of records and interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, C1, age 3, failed to be under supervision at all times on 1/21/2021, per the critical incident report submitted to the Department indicating C1 was left unattended on the center's bus, Bus #1, from approximately 8:15am, until approximately 2:00pm, by S19, bus driver; S20, bus aide; and S21, floater. Following the other children being unloaded from the bus at about 8:15am, S19 parked the bus at her home. She returned to the bus to begin her evening route routine at about 2:00pm. The incident was reported to the Department via Critical Incident Report on 1/22/2021. Per LaSalle Community Action Association's policy, all involved staff (S19, S20, and S21) were terminated on 1/22/2021.

Corrective Action Plan: S1 stated effective 2/1/2021, an extra step was added to the bus dismissal protocol, serving as a fourth visual check to ensure that all children who are picked up on the bus are accounted for and in their appropriate classrooms. The bus aide and classroom teacher are responsible for ensuring that the bus log and bus to classroom weekly transportation form rosters and numbers correspond with one another. Documentation of these logs will be maintained at the center for review.

1907.C.1.: Sleeping Arrangements

Not Met

1907.C.1.: Individual and appropriate sleeping arrangements shall be made available for each child age one and older.

Finding:

1907.C.1. Based on Specialist's review of records and interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, C1, age 3, failed to be provided appropriate sleeping arrangements on 1/21/2021, after being left unattended on the center's bus, Bus #1, from approximately 8:15am to 2:00pm. Per C1's statements to O5, DCFS Case Worker, she slept on a seat during her time left alone on the bus.

1911.B.&C.: Children - Toileting Accident and Assistance

Not Met

1911.B.&C.: Children shall be changed and cleaned immediately following a toileting accident. Staff shall respond promptly to a request from a child for toileting assistance.

Finding:

1911.B.&C.: Based on Specialist's review of records and interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, C1, age 3, failed to be changed and cleaned immediately following a toileting accident on 1/21/2021, after being left unattended on the center's bus, Bus #1, from approximately 8:15am to 2:00pm, during which time she urinated on herself. According to C1's mother, O2, she arrived home that evening off the bus around 2:30pm, with wet pants.

1919.D.: Meals Served

Not Met

1919.D.: A minimum of a breakfast or morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack shall be served to children, and meals and snacks shall be served not more than three hours apart.

Finding:

1919.D. Based on Specialist's review of records and interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, C1, age 3, failed to be served a minimum of breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack on 1/21/2021, after being left unattended on the center's bus, Bus #1, from approximately 8:15am to 2:00pm. Per C1's interview with O5, DCFS Case Worker, S19, bus driver, did provide C1 milk and cereal to eat. The approximate time of this meal, according to C1's statements, was around or after 2:00pm.

1919-D.3.&4.: Food Service and Nutrition - Reasonable Time and Food Served

Not Met

1919-D.3.&4.: 3. Children shall be allowed a reasonable time to eat each meal and snack. Children shall not be forced to finish all their food.

4. Food shall be given to children on individual plates, cups, napkins, or paper towels, as appropriate, and individual utensils shall be provided, as appropriate.

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Finding:

1919.D.4.: Based on Specialist's review of records and interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, C1, age 3, failed to be provided the appropriate items to eat with, such as: plates, cups, napkins, and utensils, while being left unattended on the center's bus, Bus #1, parked at S19's house from approximately 8:15am to 2:00pm, on 1/21/2021, during which time she was not provided meals, or the appropriate individual necessities that are required to accompany them.

1919.D.5.: Drinking Water

Not Met

1919.D.5.: Drinking water shall be readily available indoors and outdoors to children at all times. Water shall be given to infants only with written instructions from parents or a physician.

Finding:

1919.D.5. Based on Specialist's review of records and interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, drinking water failed to be readily available to C1, age 3, on 1/21/2021, due to being left unattended on the center's bus, Bus #1, parked at S19's house, from approximately 8:15am to 2:00pm.

2101.A.4.: Transportation - Supervision

Not Met

2101.A.4.: Children shall never be left unattended in a vehicle.

Finding:

2101.A.4. Based on Specialist's review of records and interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, C1, age 3, was left unattended on the center's bus, Bus #1, on 1/21/2021, from approximately 8:15am to 2:00pm. Following the other children being unloaded from the bus at about 8:15am, S19, bus driver, parked the bus at her home. She returned to the bus to begin her evening route routine at about 2:00pm.

Corrective Action Plan: S1 stated effective 2/1/2021, an extra step was added to the bus dismissal protocol, serving as a fourth visual check to ensure that all children who are picked up on the bus are accounted for and in their appropriate classrooms. The bus aide and classroom teacher are responsible for ensuring that the bus log and bus to classroom weekly transportation form rosters and numbers correspond with one another. Documentation of these logs will be maintained at the center for review.

2101.A.16.: Child Safety Alarm

Not Met

2101.A.16.: Child Safety Alarm. In accordance with R.S. 32:295.3.1, a center may have a child safety alarm installed in any vehicle that has a seating capacity of six or more passengers in addition to the driver. This vehicle has to be owned or operated by the early learning center, its owner, operator, or employees and used to transport children to or from the early learning center. The child safety alarm is an ignition-based alarm system that voice prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle and shall be installed by a person or business that is approved by the manufacturer of the child safety alarm. An owner or director of an early learning center who elects to have a child safety alarm installed in a vehicle owned or operated by the early learning center shall ensure that the child safety alarm is properly maintained and in good working order each time the vehicle is used for transporting children to or from an early learning center.

Finding:

2101.A.16. Based on interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, the center's vehicles (buses) had ignition-based Child Safety Alarms installed, however, on 1/21/2021, S19, bus driver, and S20, bus aide, failed to use the alarm in the proper manner resulting in C1, age 3, being left unattended on the bus from approximately 8:15am until 2:00pm. S20 stated she would regularly turn off the alarm so that it would not sound before S19 would turn off the bus ignition. In doing so, neither S19 nor S20 would be required to do a final walk to the back of the bus, ensuring that no child was left behind; voiding the overall purpose of the safety alarm.

Corrective Action Plan: S1 stated effective 1/26/2021, a transportation training was held and a corrective action plan was implemented by the Transportation Department focusing on the proper protocols of providing transportation services. On 2/11/2021, all transportation staff attended an in-service training by the Transportation Department, where proper use of the buses' child safety alarm was covered. All buses and transportation staff are to use the child safety alarm in its intended manner going forward, to prompt a walk-through of the bus and a visual check to ensure no child is left on the bus. Documentation of the transportation in-service will be maintained at the center for review.

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2103.F.: Passenger Transportation Log

Not Met

2103.F.: Passenger Log

1. A current passenger log for each trip shall be used to track children and staff during transportation.
2. The log shall be maintained on file at the center and a copy shall be provided to the driver or monitor.
3. The following shall be recorded in the passenger log:
 - a. date the transportation is provided;
 - b. name of the child;
 - c. name of driver and staff members;
 - d. pick up and drop off locations;
 - e. time child was placed on the vehicle;
 - f. time child was released and name of the person or entity to whom child was released; and
 - g. signature of staff person completing the log.

Finding:

2103.F. Based on Specialist's review of records and staff interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, center records for the passenger transportation log for the center's bus, Bus #1, for 1/21/2021, while completed in its entirety, reflected false information. On 1/21/2021, at 8:00am, C1, age 3, the log indicated was dropped off at the center site location, picked up from the center site at 2:30pm, but was not.

Corrective Action Plan: S1 stated effective 2/11/2021, all transportation staff attended an in-service training by the Transportation Department, where the topic of correctly completing documentation was covered, specifically, "don't sign/write it down if it didn't happen". The importance of maintaining accurate records was stressed at the training, and all transportation documentation will reflect accurate information going forward.

2107.A.1.&2.: Visual Check of Vehicle

Not Met

2107.A.1.&2.: A visual passenger check of a vehicle is required to ensure that no child is left in the vehicle.

1. A staff person shall physically walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and in all enclosed spaces and recesses in the interior of the vehicle.
2. The staff member shall record the time of the visual passenger check and sign the log, indicating that no child was left on the vehicle.

Finding:

2107.A.1.&2.: Based on Specialist's review of records and staff interviews conducted on 1/27/2021, the visual check of the vehicle failed to be completed as required on 1/21/2021, after C1, age 3, was left unattended on the center's bus, Bus #1, from approximately 8:15am to 2:00pm, while parked at S19's house. S21's documentation of the vehicle check, though completed in its entirety, was inaccurate. S21 stated she failed to perform the walk-through visual check, ensuring that no child was left on the vehicle, however signed the visual check log, indicating she had done so.

Corrective Action Plan: S1 stated effective 2/1/2021, the visual check responsibility was assigned to the center supervisor and one additional alternate designee. Both responsible staff for this task are fully trained on the protocol of this role and aware of the specific duties it entails. S1 added that the visual log documentation will be completed in its entirety and reflect accurate information going forward.