

Statement of Deficiencies

1103.A.-D.: Critical Incidents and Required Notifications

Not Met

1103.A.-D.: An early learning center shall make immediate notification to emergency personnel, law enforcement as applicable, and other appropriate agencies for the following types of critical incidents involving children in care:

1. death;
 2. serious injury or illness that required medical attention;
 3. reportable infectious diseases and conditions listed in LAC 51.II.105; and
 4. any other significant event relating to the health, safety, or well-being of any child, including but not limited to a lost child, an emergency situation, fire or other structural damage, or closure of the center.
- B. The parent shall be contacted immediately following any immediate notifications made under Subsection A.
- C. The department and other appropriate agencies shall be notified via email within 24 hours of the incident.
- D. The department shall be notified by written report within 24 hours of the incident or the next business day. This written notification shall be made on the department's Critical Incidents Report Form and shall contain all information requested on the form.

Finding:

1103.A.-D. Based on interview(s) at approximately 11:15am on 2/1/2021, S2 failed to notify the department and Child Welfare within 24 hours of notification of allegations received from S11 in regards to inappropriate discipline and suspected neglect/abuse involving S3. S11 informed S2 around Late-December 2020, S3 was observed shoving a child's head down during nap time in the 1-year-old classroom. S2 informed S1 of the allegations in Late-December 2020. S1 did not contact the appropriate agencies within 24 hours of notification of the allegations.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective immediately, S1 stated when any staff is notified of any incident, they will report it to the Department immediately. S1 stated she will conduct a meeting on 2/8/2021 to review Critical Notifications with all staff.

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

Not Met

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

- 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) at approximately 11:15am on 2/1/2021, although mandated reporters, S2 and S5 failed to report suspected abuse/neglect of a child to the Child Protection Statewide Hotline. S2 was informed in late-December 2020 by S11 that S3 shoved a child's head down in the 1-year-old classroom during nap time. In late-December 2020, S5 observed S3 shove C1's head down during nap time and hit C1 with wooden blocks and Lego mega blocks.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 2/8/2021, S1 stated she will conduct a meeting to review suspected neglect/abuse and how to report to Child Welfare.

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:

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1509.8.a.b.i.vii. Based on interviews on 2/1/2021, although the center developed and implemented a written behavior management policy describing the methods of behavior guidance and management that shall be used at the center, S5 used prohibited methods in Late-December 2020, during naptime, S5 placed a toddler chair over C1, age 1 year, while he was laying on his mat in efforts to keep him on the mat. In late-December 2020, S3 applied pressure to C2's back by placing the edge of her knee on his back while he laid on a mat during naptime.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 2/8/2021, S1 stated she will review the behavior management policy with all staff during a meeting and terminate any staff that uses prohibited methods of discipline.

1707.C.: Administrative Duties

Not Met

1707.C.: More than 42 Children in Care. When the number of children present at an early learning center exceeds 42, the duties of the director or director designee shall consist only of performing administrative duties or there shall be an individual present whose job duties consist solely of administrative duties and of ensuring that staff members working with children do not leave their classrooms to handle administrative duties.

Finding:

1707.C. Based on observations/record review at approximately 10:45am on 2/1/2021, S2's duties did not consist only of administrative functions when the number of children in care exceeded 42 as there were 64 children at the center and S2 was the assigned teacher for the 3 and 4-year-old classroom. S1 did not arrive to the center until 11:09am on 2/1/2021.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective immediately, S1 stated she is currently hiring other staff to assist in S2's classroom when the center is over 42 children. She stated S4 is currently completing courses to become qualified as Director Designee.
