

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. Critical Incidents and Required Notifications: Based on record review/interview on 05/06/2021 at approximately 10:00am, S1 failed to immediately notify the Parent, as well as failed to notify within 24 hours of the incident the Department and Child Welfare of the following critical incident: on 04/23/2021, S12 was observed by S6 slapping C1, 1-year-old, across the face after C1 bit S6 on the hand. S1 stated that she was waiting for the meeting that they will have next week and admitted to dropping the ball. Specialist informed S1 to notify the parent, DCFS-Child Welfare, and the Department of the critical incident prior to departure. As of 2:40pm on 5/13/21, the parent, Child Welfare and the Department has not been notified by S1 of the incident, nor has the appropriate paperwork for the critical incident been completed. S1 submitted critical incident to the Department, made an on-line report to Child Welfare, and contacted O1, C1's guardian to notify her of the incident prior to Specialist departure on 5/13/21.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 5/13/21, S1 stated she will call all parents/guardians, contact all appropriate agencies if they should ever have another critical incident. S1 had staff meeting on 5/8/21 to go over protocols, and give staff different ways to handle children's behavior.

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. Child Abuse and Neglect Policy: Based on record review/interviews on 05/06/2021 at approximately 10:30am, staff failed to report suspected abuse of C1, 1-year-old, to the Child Protection Hot-line after S12 was observed slapping C1 across the face after biting S6 on the hand. All staff at the daycare center are mandated reporters, but no one reported the suspected abuse as mandated.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 5/13/2021, S1 stated she will go over with staff that mandated reporting is not just for suspected abuse/neglect from parents, but can be outside the home as well. S1 is planning another staff meeting for 05/19/2021 and will review with all staff again.

Statement of Deficiencies

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.: Behavior Management Policy: Based on interviews on 05/06/2021 at approximately 11:00am, though the center has a behavior management policy that prohibits physical discipline, on 04/23/2021, S12 (date of hire 02/03/2020) used a prohibited method of discipline as C1 was subject to corporal punishment. S12 was observed by S6 slapping C1, 1-year-old, across the face for biting S6 on the hand. S12's final day in the center was 04/23/2021, and her termination was dated 04/29/2021.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 5/13/2021, S1 stated she had a meeting on 5/8/2021 with all staff to review policy/procedures on how to discipline children. Printed material was given to all staff on ways to handle children with difficult behavior.

1711.A.&B.&D.&G.: Child to Staff Ratio

Not Met

1711.A.&B.&D.&G.: A. Child to staff ratios are established to ensure the safety of all children.

B. Minimum child to staff ratios shall be met at all times.

1. There shall be a minimum of two staff members present at an early learning center when more than one child is present.
 2. Only those staff members directly providing care, supervision or guidance to children shall be counted in the child to staff ratios.
- D. Minimum Child to Staff Ratios for Type II and Type III centers:

Ages of Children	Ratio
Infants under 1 year	5:1
1 year	7:1
2 years	11:1
3 years	13:1
4 years	15:1
5 years	19:1
6 years and up	23:1

G. Mixed Age Groups - Minimum Child to Staff Ratios

1. An average of the child to staff ratios may be applied to mixed age groups of children ages 2, 3, 4 and 5
2. Child to staff ratios for children under age two are excluded from averaging.
3. When a mixed age group includes children younger than age two, the age of the youngest child determines the child to staff ratio for the group.
4. An average may be applied to a mixed age group consisting only of children ages 5 and older.

Finding:

1711.A.&B.&D.&G.: Child to Staff Ratio: Based on observation on 05/06/2021 at approximately 8:45am, the center failed to meet the required child to staff ratio for children of the following ages: thirteen children age 2-3-years-old with 1 staff. The required ratio for children of this age is 12 children per 1 staff person. An additional staff would have been needed to make ratio. S10 arrived in the room at approximately 9:00am correcting ratio.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 5/13/2021, S1 stated she will ensure that all rooms are in ratio and told all staff that they need to notify the office when they have gone over ratio so that another teacher can be put in the room. S1 stated that she is in the process of opening up another classroom to be able to split that age group up so that they will not go over again.