

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 & C&D. Based on interview/record review at approximately 12:00 PM, S3 failed to notify the Department and Child Welfare within 24 hours of 08/05/2020 when she was notified by S7 and S8 that C1, age 7-years-old, had been hit on the back by S6. S3 also failed to contact O1 immediately upon receiving information that S6 allegedly hit C1 on the back. Per S1's statement, she did not report the incident involving C1 to Licensing, Child Welfare, or O1 due to her investigating the alleged accusation and concluding it be false.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 08/12/2020, S3, Owner, stated that she will report all accusations of suspected abuse to Licensing and Child Welfare immediately before conducting her own investigation even is he suspects the allegation to be false.

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.a-b. Based on interviews/record review at 1:00 PM, although there was a Child Abuse and Neglect policy, S3 failed to ensure the policy was followed as she, S7, and S8 are all mandated reporters and neither staff reported the suspected abuse of C1 to the Child Protection Hotline. S8 stated she witnessed S6 hit C1, 7-year-old, with an open hand in the back and reported it to S6, center director, on an unknown date. S7 stated S8 informed her of the alleged incident on 07/22/2020; however; she did not report the incident to the Child Protection Hotline until 08/05/2020. S3 stated she became aware of the allegation on 08/5/2020 and concluded the allegation to be false after conducting an internal investigation and she never reported the allegation to the Child Protection Hotline.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 08/13/2020, S3, Owner, stated that she will report all suspected abuse or neglect allegations of a child to Child Welfare immediately.

Statement of Deficiencies

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: Based on Observations/Interviews on 08/25/2020 at approximately 10:45 AM, S1 failed to ensure child to staff ratios are met at all times. Specialist observed S2 supervising 10 children age 11 months old to 12-years-old. S2 could not supervise more than five children. This was corrected at 10:59 AM when S4 removed C2, age 11 months old, from the room. Per S3's statement, S4 and S2 allowed C2's sister to remove the child from the baby room and bring her to the older classroom.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 08/25/2020, S1, Owner, stated that staff will not allow older children to remove the younger children from their designated classrooms.