

## 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 observations, interviews, and record review at 10:30 AM on 9/28/2020, center staff delayed reporting suspected abuse to Child Welfare. Specialist reviewed video from 9/21/2020, from 11:35 AM until 11:45 AM. During that time period, Specialist observed S14 lift and lay C4 (age one-year-old) down on the mat roughly, push C2 and C4's (both age one-year-old) heads roughly down onto their mats, pull C3 (age one-year-old) by his shirt, and pull C5 (age one-year-old) down to her lap roughly by one arm as she sat on the floor. Though S1 became aware of this incident on 9/21/2020, Child Welfare was not notified until 9/23/2020.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 9/21/2020, S1 stated she will complete a training with staff on reporting to Child Welfare to ensure this is not recited.

### 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 observations, interviews, and record review at 10:30 AM on 9/28/2020, though the center has a Behavior Management Policy that prohibits physical discipline, S14 used prohibited methods of discipline as she subjected children to physical punishment. Specialist reviewed video from 9/21/2020, from 11:35 AM until 11:45 AM. During that time period, Specialist observed S14 lift and lay C4 (age one-year-old) down on the mat roughly, push C2 and C4's (both age one-year-old) heads roughly down onto their mats, pull C3 (age one-year-old) by his shirt, and pull C5 (age one-year-old) down to her lap roughly by one arm as she sat on the floor. S14 was terminated on 9/21/2020.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 9/28/2020, S1 stated staff were trained regarding this regulation on 9/18/2020. She also continues to monitor staff to ensure this deficiency is not cited again.