

## 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 Child Abuse and Neglect Policy: Based on interview(s): Although mandated reporters, staff did not report suspected abuse/neglect of a child to the Child Protection Statewide Hotline as staff interviews on 10/26/17 stated that they had previously observed S19 pinching children on the ear, grabbing children aggressively by the arm, holding a child's hand under what they suspected to be hot water, and S19 yelling at the children. Staff stated that they did not report the incident to either Licensing or 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:

1509-A.8. a-b Based on interview(s):

Center used a prohibited method of discipline as interviews from S17, S18 and S20 states that children were subject to physical punishment and verbal abuse by S19. S19 was alleged to have pulled really hard on the arm of an unknown female child so that she would get in line on 10/11/17.

Interviewers S17, S18 and S19 could not verify seeing this incident but they all verified that they had witnessed S19 being physically and verbally inappropriate with center children in the past.

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### 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 observations: The center failed to meet the required child to staff ratio for children of the following ages: 16 children age 3 y/o with 1 staff. The required ratio for children of this age is 13 children per 1 staff person. On 11/1/17 during inspection the Specialist observed that S21 was in the center hallway with 16 children in line. When the Specialist questioned S23 on where S21's assistant was S21 stated that she was finishing up in the cafeteria. S23 located S16 and the ratio was accurate prior to the Specialist walking away.