

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 record review/interview at approximately 3:30 PM on 10/26/2020, S1 failed to notify the Department and Child Welfare within 24 hours of 10/06/2020 when she was notified by O1 that C1, age 2-years-old, had been spanked on her legs for playing in the sink or crying during nap by S14. Per S1's statement, she did not report the incident due to her questioning S12 and S14 about the incident on an unknown date on or around 10/6/2020 to 10/12/2020 and her determining the allegations to be invalid due her to not having any witnesses or evidence of abuse.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective, 11/18/2020, S1, Director, stated that she will report all critical incidents timely.

1507.A.: Daily Attendance Records - Children

Not Met

1507.A.: A daily attendance record for children shall be maintained that shall:

1. include the child's first and last name, arrival and departure times, and first and last name of person or entity to whom the child is released;
2. accurately reflect children on the center premises at any given time; and
3. be used to sign in and out if a child leaves and returns to the center during the day.

Finding:

1507.A. Based on record review/interview at approximately 4:00 PM on 10/26/2020, S1 failed to maintain a daily attendance log for children that accurately reflects the first and last name of the person or entity to whom the child is released. The center's daily attendance log dated 10/09/2020 indicates that C1 was released to S14. Per S14's statement, she released C1 to O3; however, her name appears on the electronic attendance log due to her signing C1 out. Per S1's statement, the center switched to an electronic daily attendance log in July 2020 and it does not currently allow for authorized release persons that are not the parents to sign the children out. S1 also stated that when this occurs the teachers sign the children out for them.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 11/18/2020, S1, Director, stated that a personal pin number has been setup for authorized release persons that will document their name when dropping off and picking up children. This pin will be issued to families immediately.

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 4:00 PM on 10/26/2020, although there was a Child Abuse and Neglect policy, S1 failed to ensure the policy was followed on 10/06/2020, 10/12/2020, and 10/27/2020 as she is a mandated reporter and failed to report the suspected abuse of C1 to the Child Protection Hotline. Per S1's statement, she stated she initially became aware of the allegation on 10/06/2020 after being informed by O1, she met with O1 in her office on 10/12/2020 and concluded the allegation to be untrue after speaking to S14 and S12 on unknown dates on or around 10/6/2020 to 10/12/2020. Per S14's statement, she became aware of the alleged abuse of C1 on 10/28/2020 when she was approached by S1 regarding a Facebook post that was made by O1 on 10/27/2020 alleging she had spanked C1.

Statement of Deficiencies

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 11/18/2020, S1, Director, stated that she will review mandated reporter requirements with all staff on 11/19/2020 via video training.

1515.A.3.: Releasing of Children

Not Met

1515.A.3.: Written authorization signed and dated by the parent noting the first and last names of individuals to whom the child may be released other than the parents, including any other early learning centers, transportation services, and any person or persons who may remove the child from the center.

- a. The parent may further authorize additional individuals via a text message, fax or email to the center in unplanned situations and follow it with a written authorization.
- b. A child shall never be released to anyone unless authorized in writing by the parent.
- c. Any additions and deletions to the list of authorized individuals shall be signed and dated by the parent.
- d. The center shall verify the identity of the authorized person prior to releasing the child.

Finding:

1515.A.3. Based on record review/interview at 11:45 AM on 11/18/2020, S14 failed to verify the identity of the authorized person prior to releasing the child. Per S14's statement, she admitted releasing C1 to O3 on 10/09/2020 without verifying his identity. She also stated O3 had not picked C1 up before; however, she immediately recognized O3 as C1's grandfather due to her personally knowing him for over 20 years. Per S1's statement, she was not at the center at the time C1 was picked up due to driving the center's bus to pickup the school aged children who were let out early due to the threat of Hurricane Delta. S1 also stated that she is always in the office and usually identifies all authorized individuals before allowing them to go to the classroom.

Corrective Action Plan: Effective 11/18/2020, S1, Director, stated that she will review the releasing policy with all staff on 11/19/2020.