

Statement of Deficiencies

1103-A-E: Critical Incidents and Required Notification

Not Met

1103-A-E: 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 Licensing Division and other appropriate agencies shall be notified via email within 24 hours of the incident.
- D. The Licensing Division 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 Licensing Division's Critical Incidents Report Form and shall contain all information requested on the form.
- E. Reporting deadlines may be adjusted in the event of a natural catastrophe and/or disaster, as determined by the Department.

Finding:

1103-A-E Based on interview(s): The early learning center failed to notify the Licensing Division via e-mail and written report within 24 hours of a critical incident of suspected abuse to a child by facility staff.

-In 9/2015, S1 informed O1 that she witnessed S2 swat a child on the bottom with a book during naptime and this suspected abuse was not reported to the Licensing Division.

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 Based on interview(s)/record review: Facility staff are required to report suspected abuse/neglect to school administration who are not head start staff, prior to reporting it to the Child Protection Statewide Hotline and an incident of suspected abuse to a child by facility staff was not reported to the Child Protection Statewide Hotline.

-In 9/2015, S1 informed O1 that she witnessed S2 swat a child on the bottom with a book during naptime and this suspected abuse was not reported to the Louisiana Child Protection Statewide Hotline.

-On 11/13/15, S2 hit C3 on the hand and this was witnessed by S1. S1 stated it was her understanding that she was to report suspected abuse/neglect of a child that occurred in the child's home but that she was not trained who to report suspected abuse/neglect that occurred in the early learning center. S2 stated she is employed by the school board, not head start and was trained to report suspected abuse/neglect to the Head Start Education Facilitator and to the Assistant principal of the elementary school the head start is located within.

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.

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Finding:

1509-A.8. a-b Based on interview(s): Staff used an inappropriate form of discipline by slapping a child on the hand.

-S1 stated that on 11/13/15, she witnessed S2 'slap' C3 on the hand, leaving a red mark on the child.

-S2 stated that on 11/13/15, C3 grabbed her hand and bent her thumb backwards and that her natural reaction was to 'swat' and that when she did so, she hit C3 on the hand.
