

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. Critical incidents and Required Notifications. Based on interviews on 12/17/2019, at 10:58 AM, S1 failed to notify S14, C2's mother, immediately of the following critical incident: Early November 2019, S1 was made aware of allegations by staff that S15 nudged C2, age 3, on his lower left leg when he was playing with a puzzle and would not get up off the bathroom floor. S1 also failed to notify the Department and Child Welfare within 24 hours or the next business day of the critical incident. S1 stated she did tell S8 not to discuss the incident with anyone. S14 was notified on 12/6/19 of the critical incident. S1 notified the Department and Child Welfare of the incident on 12/17/2019.

Based on interviews on 12/17/19, at 10:58am, S1 failed to notify O1, C1's mother, immediately of the following critical incident: On 12/5/19, S13 called her to inform her that staff reported that she witnessed S15 carry C1 by her wrist to the front hallway after several failed attempts to get C1 on the nap mat. S1 also failed to notify the Department and Child Welfare within 24 hours or the next business day of the critical incident. S1 did not make a report to Child Welfare or Law Enforcement regarding this incident because she did not believe that C1 was carried inappropriately by S15.

Corrective Action Plan: S1 stated that she will immediately notify the Department of any incidents reported to her regardless of whether or not she believes the information is correct.

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. Child Abuse and Neglect Policy. Based on interviews on 12/17/2019 at 10:58 AM, although mandated reporters, S1 and S8 did not report suspected abuse/neglect of a child to the Child Protection Statewide Hotline when S8 witnessed S15 nudged C2 on his lower left leg with her foot to remove him from a bathroom floor in early November 2019. S1 was notified of the incident by S8 on the day it occurred. This incident was not reported to Child Welfare until 12/7/2019 by a different staff member.

Correction Action Plan: S1 stated that she will immediately notify the Department and Child Welfare of any incidents reported to her regardless of whether or not she believes the information is correct.

Statement of Deficiencies

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 i. Behavior Management Policy. Based on interviews on 12/17/2019 at 11:55 AM and 12:15 PM although the Provider developed and implemented a behavior management policy, S15 used a prohibited method of discipline as she:

- nudged C2 on the lower left leg with her foot to remove him from the bathroom floor in early November 2019
 - pulled C1 by her wrist and dragged her on her back and side to remove C1 from the classroom on 12/5/2019
- S15 was terminated from the Center on 12/06/2019 due to absenteeism and not following the class curriculum.

Correction Action Plan: S1 stated that she will review Behavior Management Policy with all staff prior to 1/31/2020. She will have all staff sign an acknowledgment of the review and inform staff to notify office staff immediately if behavior issues arise with a child.

1901.J.&K.: Items That Can be Harmful to Children

Not Met

1901.J.&K.: J. Items that can be harmful to children, such as medications, poisons, cleaning supplies and chemicals, and equipment, tools, knives and other potentially dangerous utensils, shall kept in a locked cabinet or other secure place that ensures they are inaccessible to children.

K. Plastic bags, when not in use, regardless of purpose or use, shall be made inaccessible to children.

Finding:

1901.J. Items That Can Be Harmful to Children: Based on observation: Specialist conducted a walk through of the center on 12/17/2019 at 9:10 AM and observed in the classroom of S6 a can of disinfecting spray, a bottle of Mean Green, and a bottle of Chlorox Water solution in an unlocked cabinet and within the reach of eleven 4 to 5 year-old children. S1 corrected the issue prior to Specialist exiting the center.

Corrective Action Plan: S1 stated that she will have a lock placed on the cabinet as soon as possible. Until a lock is placed on the cabinet, all cleaning supplies will be stored on top of the cabinet, which is out of reach of the children in the class.

1911.I.&J.: Proper Lifting of a Child

Not Met

1911.I.&J.: I. Staff members shall adhere to proper techniques for lifting a child.

J. Staff members shall not lift a child by one or both arms.

Finding:

1911. I. Proper Lifting of a Child. Based on interviews on 12/17/2019 at 6:45 PM, S15 failed to use a proper technique for lifting a child. S15 stated that on 12/5/2019, she lifted C1 by grabbing the outside of both upper arms when removing C1 from the classroom.

Corrective Action Plan: S1 will review proper lifting techniques of a child with all staff prior to 1/31/2020. She will have all staff sign an acknowledgment of the review.