Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Beautiful Beginnings **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID:** 27374

Street: 1701 W Jester Park DR **City:** Polk City **IA** **Zip Code:** 50226 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1701 W Jester Park DR

Mailing City: Polk City **IA** **Zip Code:** 50226

Director's Name: Haley Carpenter **Center Phone Number:** 515-984-6146

On-Site Supervisors: Christy Hauger and Michelle Smith **E-Mail Address:** beautiful_beginnings1@yahoo.com

Date of Complaint: 07-01-2024 **Date of Visit:** 07-08-2024

[ ] Scheduled **[X]** Unannounced **[ ]** NA

[X] Non-Compliance with Regulations Found **[ ]** Compliance with Regulations Found

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

[X] NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended

[ ] PROVISIONAL license from **to**

[ ] SUSPENSION of License

[ ] REVOCATION of License

Complaint Details:

Did this complaint result in a serious injury? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did this complaint result in a death to a child? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Summary of Complaint:

It is alleged that on 07/01/2024, (daycare staff) at Beautiful Beginnings hit a child (age 17 mo) on the top of the head when trying to make them do something. Physical abuse is alleged.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.12(2)a Center does not use corporal punishment including spanking, shaking, or slapping.

Inspection Findings:

Iowa Department of Human Services

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On 7/1/24, concerns a staff had struck a child (age 17 mo) atop the head while at Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center was received and reviewed.

A child protection assessment was assigned to Child Protection Worker (CPW) Tyler Hall; and collaboration with CPW Hall took place as this assessment and the CPS assessment could be worked jointly.

On 7/8/24 CPW Hall and I visited Beautiful Beginnings. We met with center director Haley Carpenter who queued video of the incident and we were able to view the incident. The video depicts staff AB striking a child (age 17 mo) atop the head and also slapping his hand; which resulted with the child crying.. There were three staff in the room including AB. One of the alternative two staff in the room observed this occur. This incident occurred within seconds. Haley indicated the child's parent was notified after she was made aware of the situation. Haley indicated she had reviewed the video and had spoken with staff AB who was not overly forthright with information at first. Haley indicated staff AB was terminated after this occurred.

CPW Hall and I toured/observed the room attended by this child. The child of interest was also observed in the room; without obvious injuries at this time. CPW Hall shared law enforcement had been notified as well. CPW Hall also shared parents were considering pressing legal charges as a result of this incident.

CPW Hall and I interviewed staff that observed this occur; who shared there was a direct line of site that AB had struck the child atop the head and on the hand, with the child crying following those actions.

7/23/24--CPW Hall spoke with staff AB, who indicated the slapping/tapping was "not that hard".

7/30/24--CPW Hall notified me that the CPS assessment was NOT CONFIRMED for physical abuse.

Based on the video of the incident and interviews with those involved; there IS SUFFICIENT information of NON-COMPLIANCE with Iowa Administrative Code 109.12(2)a Center does not use corporal punishment including spanking, shaking, or slapping. Video and interviews with witnessing staff and staff AB, Staff AB struck the child atop his head and hand.

Special Notes and Action Required:

Supervisory Staff was notified of the concerns and upon reviewing video and speaking with witnesses and AB, terminated staff AB for striking the child.

No further actions required at this time.

Consultant's Signature:

Maggie Gibson, SWIV

Date:

08-09-2024