

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center:	Cadence Academy Preschool - Clive	Enrollment:	77	License ID:	25879
Street:	14300 Hickman RD	City:	Clive	IA Zip Code:	50325
County:	Polk				
Mailing Address:	8800 N Gainey Center Dr Ste300Attn: Accounts Receivable				
Mailing City:	Scottsdale	IA Zip Code:	85258		
Director's Name:	Interim Director	Center Phone Number:	515-987-2137		
On-Site Supervisors:	Interim	E-Mail Address:	director.heartland@cadence-academy.com		

Date of Complaint: 05-06-2025**Date of Visit:** 05-12-2025☐ Scheduled ☒ Unannounced ☐ NA☒ Non-Compliance with Regulations Found ☐ Compliance with Regulations Found**RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE**☒ 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 ☒ NoDid this complaint result in a death to a child? ☐ Yes ☒ No**Summary of Complaint:**

It is alleged that Amaya Sexton (childcare provider) was observed on footage 5/5/25 to nudge a child (age 1) so hard that they hit their face on the floor, causing a bloody lip due a cut and bruise to their lip. Amaya then grabbed the child aggressively, took them across the room and sat them down, threw a blanket over their head, and walked away, leaving the child (age 1) to struggle to get the blanket off while crying.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.10(16)a The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.

109.12(2)b Punishment which is humiliating or frightening or causes pain or discomfort is not allowed. Mechanical restrains shall never be used. If part of a treatment plan for a child with a disability, staff shall receive training.

Inspection Findings:

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I was notified this concern would be addressed jointly with HHS worker Erica Jones. I communicated with Erica and agreed to meet at the center on 5/12/25.

Erica and I visited Cadence Academy Preschool unannounced on 5/12/25; we met with then-director Kara Langer. Regional Director, Jen Villegas was able to allow us to review the video of this incident. The video depicts Amaya Sexton having used her foot to push on the child's (age 1) body twice, the second time causing the child to fall face forward onto the tile floor. Amaya then aggressively picks up the child and places the child on a cot, throwing a blanket over his head while he was sitting on the cot. Video time lapse indicated the child struggling to remove the blanket from his head/body for over a minute when a second staff removed the blanket and observed the child bleeding from his lip. The child was found to have incurred a cut lip from falling face first on the tile. The staff picked him up, Amaya then takes the child to the changing table area to clean his lip.

The director indicated the second staff in the room notified the director of this incident toward then end of the day; when Kara also addressed this with Amaya, who was suspended while an internal investigation began. The second staff was provided coaching and written discipline for not taking action to protect the child or seeking supervisor assistance sooner. Ultimately, Amaya (the staff that used her foot to nudge or move the child resulting with the child falling face first into tile; resulting with a cut/bloody lip) was terminated.

The director confirmed the parent was notified per policy.

Erica did document several attempts to reach Amaya Sexton that was not successful.

On 6/4/25, I located contact information for Amaya Sexton and attempted to reach her; leaving a text message if she wished to provide input for this assessment.

On 6/2/25 I received notification that this complaint would result in child abuse registry placement with Amaya Sexton named responsible.

There is sufficient evidence to conclude a licensing violation has occurred. The center is FOUND TO BE OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH LICENSING REGULATION 109.10(16)A AS IT PERTAINS TO CAREFUL SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN; and OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH LICENSING REGULATION 109.12(2)B PUNISHMENT WHICH IS HUMILIATING OR FRIGHENING OR CAUSES PAIN OR DISCOMFORT IS NOT ALLOWED.

Special Notes and Action Required:

The director was notified of the concerns, reviewed the video and suspended the staff named responsible the same day. The director began an internal investigation right away that lead to a second staff being coached and receiving written discipline regarding the need to protect children in their care and intervene when another may be unsafe toward a child. The staff person that caused the child to fall forward resulting with cut/bloody lip was terminated from employment at this center.

No further actions required at this time.

Consultant's Signature:

Maggie Gibson, SWIV

Date:

06-04-2025