Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Sprout Kids Academy Inc **Enrollment:** 173 **License ID:** 47699

Street: 400 Elderberry St **City:** Tiffin **IA** **Zip Code:** 52340 **County:** Johnson

Mailing Address: 400 Elderberry St

Mailing City: Tiffin **IA** **Zip Code:** 52340

Director's Name: Rachel Volk **Center Phone Number:** 319-545-5437

On-Site Supervisors: Katie Cilek **E-Mail Address:** rachelvolk@sproutkidsacademy.com

Date of Complaint: 02-06-2024 **Date of Visit:** 02-07-2024

[ ] 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:

-A staff member kicked a child (under the age of 1) in the back causing the child to fall and hit their face. Staff laughed about hurting the child.
-The same staff member left a child (under the age of 6 months) in a room unattended.
-The same staff member chooses which children she provides care to and what children she “ignores.” Some of the infants were fed and changed as required and some are not.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.8(2)d At least one staff shall be present in every room.Brief absence of staff person permitted for 5 or less minutes when another staff person is present.

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.

109.12(5)e The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.

109.15(1) Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.

Inspection Findings:

This worker met with the director, on-site supervisor, and several staff members.

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. VIOLATED.
-Staff reported that another staff kicked a child to stop them from pulling another child's hair. Staff shared that this could have been handled differently. This could have been frightening or caused pain to the child.
-The staff that kicked the child was also overheard stating, “Good thing we don’t have cameras in her people would think I was abusing you" and “I dropped kicked a kid yesterday.”

109.10(16) a. The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision. VIOLATED.
-A staff member left an infant sleeping in a crib instead of transitioning the child into the next classroom. The timeline was minimized. The child was unattended for 19 minutes per sign out of staff and sign out by child's parent.
-Staff shared that staff are on their phones and apple watches a lot which prevents them from providing careful supervision.

109.8(2) d. At least one staff shall be present in every room. VIOLATED.
-A staff member left an infant sleeping in a crib instead of transitioning the child into the next classroom. The timeline was minimized. The child was unattended for 19 minutes per sign out of staff and sign out by child's parent.

109.12(5) e. The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required. VIOLATED.
-Child was observed sleeping on a pillow.
-Staff reported that safe sleep practices are not consistently followed.

109.15(1) Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. VIOLATED.
-Several staff reported that a staff member would choose not to feed the infants. She would just place them in their cribs so they would fall asleep.
-This worker reviewed some daily sheets too. Per the daily sheets some children were going more than 3 hours without naps.

Special Notes and Action Required:

Discipline: The director or on-site supervisor will review with all staff the center's policy on discipline. The employee that physically kicked the child is no longer with the center.

Supervision: Staff did not provide careful supervision. The staff that left the child unattended in the room is no longer with the center. The director or on-site supervisor should review this information with staff: https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/active-supervision.pdf

Safe Sleep: The director, on-site supervisor and staff working in the infant room must take a training on infant safe sleep. There is a free one on 5/1/24.
https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/trainingregistry/TrainingRegistry/CourseDetail?id=w6fNHXioV%2bc%3d

Nutrition: The director, on-site supervisor and staff working in the infant room must review the CACFP Infant Feeding Guide: https://www.cacfp.org/assets/pdf/Feeding+Infants+in+the+CACFP+cacfp.org/

Consultant's Signature:

Heidi Brown

Date:

04-02-2024