

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center:	Tracey's Tots Daycare Co - Fort Dodge	Enrollment:	26	License ID:	7448
Street:	109 S 8th ST	City:	Fort Dodge	IA Zip Code:	50501
County:	Webster				
Mailing Address:	PO Box 7				
Mailing City:	Churdan	IA Zip Code:	50050		
Director's Name:	Tracey Wilson	Center Phone Number:	515-576-5437		
On-Site Supervisors:	Elizabeth Nostrum	E-Mail Address:	traceystotsdaycare@frontier.com		

Date of Complaint: 05-07-2025**Date of Visit:** 05-09-2025☐ 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:**

A complaint was received that a child received injuries when hit by a peer when no staff were in the classroom.

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.

Inspection Findings:

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A visit was made to Tracey's Tots Daycare on 05-09-25 where DHHS co-worker Rebecca White and I met with the on-site supervisor Elizabeth "Libby" Nostrum as the center director and owner, Tracey Wilson, was not in. Libby was able to identify the staff who had been present at the time of the incident and we were able to speak with those staff.

We spoke with (AA) who stated she had been assigned to the Preschool Room to work until 4 PM. AA stated that as she was walking to clock out for the day she saw the children in the School Age room "going at it" and told them to "stop and walk away". AA noted that one of the children (C1) is autistic and had wanted to give the peer (C2) a hug and the peer had told that child no. AA stated that C1 became upset, threw a tablet at C2, who then hit C1. AA described C2 hitting C1 with an open hand back and forth slapping motion on the right shoulder striking C1 several times in quick succession. AA stated that they were able to separate the children and C1 ran to the bathroom and she tried to calm that child down but a sibling to C2 continued to make comments antagonizing the situation. AA stated that C1's grandmother arrived to pick the child up and when leaving C1 tried to hit C2 again but did not make contact. AA stated that her co-worker (HS) was the staff assigned to the School age room where the incident occurred. AA did state that she had completed an incident report regarding the concern and that the mother of C1 had come to the center questioning what had occurred. AA stated that she did provide the mother with a verbal account and the mother had requested that she write that information which was more detailed in an incident report.

Copies of both incident reports completed by AA, and one completed by HS were reviewed. The initial report by AA was brief noting the incident date of 05-06-25 @ 3:55 PM stating that AA was leaving the preschool room to clock out and then seen C1 throw a tablet at C2. C2 then threw it back at C1. C1 got up to hit C2 and C2 hit C1 back. AA ran to stop them and separate them from the situation. The revised incident report completed by AA included a more detailed account adding the information provided regarding C1 running to the bathroom, AA attempting to calm C1, the sibling to C2 continuing to make comments to antagonize the situation and being told to stop. It also notes that there additional attempts of the children to continue the physical interactions with AA and C1's grandmother intervening.

A copy of the incident report by HS was written on a blank sheet of paper dated 05-07-25 and stated that C1 was hit another child on 05-06-25. HS noted that she seen C1 get hit and separated the two children. HS took C1 to a separate room to try to calm him down. When C1's grandmother arrived to pick the child up HS informed her of the situation, and C1 was passed to the other teacher in the room and started getting hit again. HS and the grandmother went over to separate the children and the grandmother left with C1.

Rebecca and I next spoke with HS who stated that she had been in the kitchen doing dishes at the time and AA was in the classroom. HS provided the same history of the incident being that C1 wanted a hug from C2 and got upset when C2 said they did not want a hug, C1 throwing the tablet at C2, and C2 responding by hitting C1. HS stated that she did not see this initial interaction but did place both children in time-out. HS stated when C1's grandmother showed up to pick up the child she informed her of the situation and C1 tried to hit C2 again but did not make contact. HS stated that C1 had not had any other issues that day before going to school, and was fine when returning from school. HS stated that the incident occurred about 10-15 minutes after the children had returned from school.

We next spoke with the center director and owner, Tracey Wilson, who confirmed that she had not been at the center when the incident had occurred but had been provided the same history as that which was provided by AA and HS. We also spoke with the on-site supervisor Libby Nostrum who confirmed she had been at the center but had not been in the room during the incident. Libby did state that she had driven the van to pick up C1 from school and the child did not have any problems on the drive back to the center.

Based on the information obtained this complaint is SUBSTANTIATED for violation of Licensing Standard 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. All parties provided consistent and credible information that HS was assigned to the School Age room, and AA was assigned to the Pre-school age room. All parties agree that HS had left the classroom and gone into the kitchen to wash dishes. AA stated that she was passing through the classroom on her way to clocking out for the day when she witnessed and intervened in the altercation that occurred. While there was a teacher present in the room this appeared to be a result of happenstance rather than a request for AA to supervise and have a clear transfer of responsibility for the care of the children when HS left the room to wash dishes in the kitchen.

Special Notes and Action Required:

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This complaint is SUBSTANTIATED for violation of the identified licensing standard and the following actions are required and/or requested. No change in license status is recommended at this time.

REQUIRED:

1. The center shall develop written policy and procedure regarding the process for transferring responsibility of children including identifying which children an employee is responsible for when teachers are entering/leaving the room, or children are transitioning from one activity to another where care is being provided by another employee.

Consultant's Signature:

Ray Salsbury

Date:

06-04-2025