Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Tinker Tots Preschool **Enrollment:** 55 **License ID:** 7382

Street: 1501 Industrial AVE **City:** Bedford **IA** **Zip Code:** 50833 **County:** Taylor

Mailing Address: 1501 Industrail AVE

Mailing City: Bedford **IA** **Zip Code:** 50833

Director's Name: April Spargen **Center Phone Number:** 712-523-2411

On-Site Supervisors: **E-Mail Address:** tinkertotspreschool@gmail.com

Date of Complaint: 08-16-2024 **Date of Visit:** 09-09-2024

[ ] Scheduled **[ ]** Unannounced **[X]** 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 August 15, 2024, KP (staff at Tinker Tots Preschool) pushed a one year old child causing her head to hit the wall no injury.

Yesterday at nap time KP grabbed one year old child by the back of her head and pushed her down to her cot and the child hit her head on the wall. The child had a little mark but it went away. KP yells at all of the children at the day care. The mother also works at the day care. The mother was made aware of this by the director yesterday.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

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

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:

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

I talked with the director April Spargen on the phone on 9-9-2024, and reviewed the complaint. April was aware of the complaint, she said she talked with the three staff that were in the room at the time of the incident; staff AR said she didn't see what happened, staff KP said she was helping the child on her cot and the child hit her head on the wall and staff NE said KP grabbed the child by the back of the neck/head and pushed the child on the cot and the child hit her head on the wall. April said the child hit her head on the wall due to rolling around on the cot/not wanting to lay down - the child's cot has been moved away from the wall.
April reported that the two staff KP and NE don't get along. April said she doesn't believe the incident occurred as NE reported. April moved KP to the position of a floater and cleaning.
I talked with staff person NE, she said staff person KP grabbed the child by the back of the neck/head and pushed her down on the cot and the child hit her head on the wall, she said she only saw KP do this once. She said KP yells at the children. NE said her an KP haven't gotten along in the past and admits that she was angry and overreacted after the incident and said she was going to kill KP, she said "of course she wouldn't do that" and said she received a verbal warning from April.
April reported that all staff will be taking Circle of Security training on Zoom on Wednesday nights beginning in October, this training will focus on many topics including discipline.

Special Notes and Action Required:

My findings are inconclusive as I can't prove KP grabbed the child by the back of the neck/head and pushed her on the cot causing the child to hit her head on the wall.
April has enrolled all staff in Circle of Security training on Zoom on Wednesday nights starting in October 2024. April said this training will focus on many topics i.e. balance of nurture and discipline, recognizing staff behaviors etc.
April will continue to work with staff on getting along, personnel issues etc.

Consultant's Signature:

Kathy DeGeorge-Evans

Date:

09-09-2024