

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center:	Newton YMCA After School at Thomas Jefferson	Enrollment:	26	License ID:	51442
Street:	112 Thomas Jefferson Dr	City:	Newton	IA Zip Code:	50208
County:	Jasper				
Mailing Address:	1701 S 8th Ave E				
Mailing City:	Newton	IA Zip Code:	50208		
Director's Name:	Serenity Bookout	Center Phone Number:	641-792-7021		
On-Site Supervisors:	Diane	E-Mail Address:	serenity.bookout@newtonymca.org		

Date of Complaint: 08-07-2024**Date of Visit:** 08-08-2024☐ 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 on 8/6/24, a staff member made a nine year old sit in time out for 60-90 minutes. The child had to sat at a table with his head down.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.12(1)a Program provides a curriculum or program of activities that promotes self-esteem and positive self-image, social interaction, self-expression and communication, creative expression, and problem-solving skills.

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:

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

This worker called Serenity Bookout, director of the YMCA programs, including Newton YMCA After School at Thomas Jefferson. This worker explained the purpose of the contact. Serenity was aware of the concerns reported. Serenity will have the staff who were working at this program available to be interviewed today.

This worker spoke with staff D.H. D.H. stated there were four boys who had been separated from the rest of the group due to behavior issues. This was also for a consequence and for safety issues. She had gotten complaints from parents about these boys hitting and touching their kids. She wasn't working the day this occurred so when sent out an email addressing the issues and how she addressed it. She didn't think the email she sent out was inappropriate. The email included "the 4 boys" and explained the boys' consequences. The ending said "Again, my praised to 22 kiddos and consequences to the other 4". This worker explained how the email was informing parents providing specific information about other children who attended the center. This worker said the email had a very negative connotation towards four children, which was very inappropriate and unprofessional also.

D.H. said these boys were taken to the field trip and they were kept separate as their consequence. The boys sat at a table together. The boys had to put their heads down because they were not listening and they were yelling. They were supposed to be quiet when they were at the table. She thinks they had to have their heads down for about fifteen minutes. The boys weren't supposed to be laughing or laying down. She didn't see this as inappropriate. This worker explained why this would be viewed as shaming and inappropriate discipline. Diane didn't recall anyone crying. She did say they were told to sit on their behinds and to have their feet flat. This worker said it was very unreasonable to expect children to sit very an extended time period and watch other children play and to expect these children to react in any manner. She said one boy said he was cold. It was chilly that day and a lot of the kids were cold.

This worker spoke with B.M. She went on the field trip to the park. She was told by D.H. there were four boys who were in trouble and they had to be separated for the day. They had to sit at a table. The boys were giggling so D.H. made them have their heads down. When the boys would look up, D.H. would say they weren't going to be able to have their heads up and they had to keep their heads down. It was a long time they had their heads down, at least thirty minutes. When it was time to eat lunch, they got to stop but the boys stayed separated.

This worker spoke with Serenity Bookout again. Serenity is looking through correspondence D.H. sent to parents. She has concerns about the message that D.H. sent regarding the four boys being disciplined and additional information she sent about it. She has concerns how D.H. chose to consequence these children also. We talked about other ways these boys could have gotten a consequence, such as missing the field trip. She is going to be meeting with D.H. again.

Special Notes and Action Required:

109.12(2)b

Punishment which is humiliating or frightening or causes pain or discomfort is not allowed.

VIOLATION

The consequence used was very shaming and inappropriate.

109.12(1)a

Program provides a curriculum or program of activities that promotes self-esteem and positive self-image, social interaction, self-expression and communication, creative expression, and problem-solving skills.

VIOLATION

The practice methods used to isolate these children and to share this information to all the parents was demeaning and shaming. It was not purposeful and there were other positive ways behavioral issues could have been used.

Consultant's Signature:

Melinda Larson, Child Care
Licensing Consultant

Date:

09-09-2024