Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Southwest Valley Early Childhood Center-Villisca **Enrollment:** 40 **License ID:** 51174

Street: 219 Central Ave **City:** Villisca **IA** **Zip Code:** 50864 **County:** Montgomery

Mailing Address: 219 Central Ave

Mailing City: Villisca **IA** **Zip Code:** 50864

Director's Name: Amber Mullen **Center Phone Number:** 712-826-5982

On-Site Supervisors: **E-Mail Address:** amullen@southwestvalley.org jlyddon@southwestvalley.org

Date of Complaint: 07-30-2023 **Date of Visit:** 08-01-2023

[ ] 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:

7/28/2023 at around 12:30 pm at the Early Childhood Education Center in Villisca, it was nap time. Maraela is an employee and had just walked out of the room and a child tried following her out the door (child 1), a daycare staff, Joni C grabbed the child by the arm/wrist and walked him to his cot and slammed him down the child sat up and wouldn't lay back down so Joni C slammed him down again and left marks on his back. The marks started off as red but is unsure what they look like now. The child then he laid down for a bit. Another child (child 2) started jumping on tables so Joni C grabbed the child and slammed him down onto his cot and in the process, the child smacked his foot on the cot, a bruise was starting to form on the childs foot. Joni C then laid on top of him to keep him down, he pulled her hair and she smacked him on the butt. Joni C then pointed at the first child and said you are next. Maraela came back in the room and the first child ran under the table. Joni C grabbed him and pulled him out and a chair fell on top of him. Maraela grabbed him and took him out of the room. It is reported that Joni C spanked her own grandchild at the daycare before in front of other kids and slam them down on their cots. The first child started throwing things and yelling because he was upset, Joni C grabbed the child by the his wrist and tried to pin him down on a napping pad.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.11(3)a Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

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.

109.12(2)c Punishment or threat of punishment associated with illness, toilet training, or food or rest is not be used.

109.12(2)d No child is subject to verbal abuse, threats, derogatory remarks about child or child's family.

Inspection Findings:

Department of Health and Human Service worker Laena Sonntag met me at Southwest Valley Early Education Center in Villisca Iowa to discuss the complaints with the director Amber Mullen. Amber wasn't at the center on the day the incident occurred. Amber reported that Joni C works at the center part time and is on vacation until August 11, 2023. Amber didn't have other reports regarding Joni prior to this, but she had been told that Joni was rougher with her with her grandchild.
Amber reported that child 1 has behavior issues i.e. aggressive, he has hit staff, yells/swears and calls people names, and runs out of the room.

Child 1 has displayed a lot of behaviors at the center i.e. defiant, yelling, swearing/name calling, running out of the room.
Laena Sonntag spoke with Joni C on the telephone on 8-18-2023, this is information from the telephone call - Joni told Laena that child 1 was acting out and was refusing to lay on his cot., he ran under the table, Joni does not recall pulling him out from under the table, but if she did , she would have grabbed him by the leg as he was running away from her. Joni denied pushing him down on the cot after he was out from under the table. Joni stated after this his mother entered the room and she pulled him out of the room by his arm. Joni stated child 1 has struggled with behaviors and calling her names.
Laena talked with a former employee on the telephone, Alexis who was in the room with Joni on 7-28-2023. Information from that telephone call -Alexis told Laena that child 1 struggled with separation issues causing him to display behaviors in the classroom, he will have meltdowns frequently when his mom leaves the room and Amber the director has had to step in multiple time to assist getting him calmed down. Alexis said she saw the child attempt to leave the room with his mom and he was upset, she saw Joni grab him and put him down on the cot, the child went under the table and Joni grabbed him out from under the table. The child's mother entered the room and the child left the room with his mother. Alexis denied seeing a bruise on the child and denied seeing his mother grab him in an aggressive manner.
Alexis stated she observed Joni to be rough with her grandchild who attends the center, but denied seeing her be rough with any of the other children until this incident.

Child 2 - Leana spoke with Joni on the telephone on 8-18-2023. Information from the phone call. Joni denied physically harming child 2, who is her grandchild in any way. She stated she did remove him from being on top of a table and she did trip with him. Joni denied seeing a bruise at this time an stated this was an accident that her foot had been caught and she had fallen with him.

Laena talked with a former employee Alexis on the telephone on 8-18-2023. Alexis stated she observed Joni to be rough with child 2, who is Joni's grandson and shoved him down on his cot because he did not want to take a nap, she said she saw a bruise on child 2's foot as when Joni shoved him don on his cot. Alexis stated she has observed Joni only be rough with her grandson but denied seeing her be rough with any of the other children.

Leana talked with child 2's mother on 8-21-2023. The mother denied being told that there was an incident regarding her child. The mother does not believe that Joni would slam her child on his cot. The mother denied seen any bruising on the child at any time around the time of the alleged incident.

Amber reported that Joni won't be returning to work at the child care center, she is a para at the school and will continue in that job.

Facility Requirements
109.11(3)a Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.

Discipline
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.
109.12(2)c Punishment or threat of punishment associated with illness, toilet training, or food or rest is not be used.
109.12(2)d No child is subject to verbal abuse, threats, derogatory remarks about child or child's family.

Special Notes and Action Required:

Non-Compliance with Regulations Found.
It appears that there was some level of frustration in dealing with two children and grabbing them and being rough likely occurred. Please review discipline policies with staff. If you have children in your program that have behavior issues you should look at developing a behavior plan, discussing the behaviors with the parents and develop action steps and goals and having them make a referral to AEA for assistance .
Although Joni is no longer working at the center it would be beneficial for staff to receive training on child behavior issues, discipline, expectations etc. Please look into PBIS training for staff or other suitable training on the Child Care Resource And Referral website. Please call your Child Care Resource and Referral worker to for consultation and training on child behaviors, discipline, expectations etc.

Consultant's Signature:

Kathy DeGeorge-Evans

Date:

12-19-2023