

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center:	Tracey's Tots Daycare Co - Fort Dodge	Enrollment:	35	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:	E-Mail Address: traceystotsdaycare@frontier.com				

Date of Complaint: 12-03-2025**Date of Visit:** 12-09-2025☐ 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 staff at Tracey's Tots Daycare in Fort Dodge were using high-chairs as a means to restrain a child when doing time-out.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.12(2)a-d The center shall not use as a form of discipline: Center does not use corporal punishment including spanking, shaking, or slapping. Punishment which is humiliating or frightening or causes pain or discomfort is not allowed. Children shall never be locked in a room or closet. When restraints are part of a treatment plan for a child with a disability authorized by a parent and a psychologist or psychiatrist, staff shall receive training on the safe and appropriate use of the restraint. Punishment or threat of punishment associated with illness, toilet training, or food or rest is not to be used. No child is subject to verbal abuse, threats, derogatory remarks about child or child's family.

Inspection Findings:

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An unannounced visit was made to Tracey's Tots Daycare - Fort Dodge on 12-09-25 where I met with Torri Harris who was identified as being in charge given that the center director and owner, Tracey Wilson was out. Torri was informed of the complaint and she identified the classroom that the child identified in the complaint attended. I did speak with the teacher (NS) for that classroom who was informed of the complaint and asked about the use of high-chairs when doing time-out. NS did acknowledge using that practice in the past and that it was to prevent the child from getting up. NS stated that the child is 2 years of age and would remain in the chair for approximately 10 minutes. NS stated that the practice was used by other staff and with other children as well. NS stated that Torri had told her they could not do that and made a change of bringing a rocking chair into the classroom where staff could sit with children to help calm them instead. NS stated that change had been made approximately 2 weeks ago and she has been following that practice since.

I did speak with Torri who confirmed that staff had been using the high chair for children when doing time out and that she and Tracey had told staff they could not do that. Torri did state that the employee who had been doing that was recently hired. I did speak with Torri about prohibited disciplinary practices and provided examples of when various actions would be considered a restraint. Torri did confirm that the center is working with the consultant from Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) and that behavior management is one of the topics they are working on. Torri stated that one of the changes being made is a philosophical approach of moving from use of "time out" as a consequence/punishment response to a more positive/proactive approach of "thinking time" where children work to regain control of their behavior. A message was left requesting a return call from Tracey.

A call was received from Tracey Wilson shortly after leaving the center. Tracey was informed of the complaint and the information provided by staff. Tracey did confirm that staff had used a high chair for time out and that she had instructed them they could not do that. Tracey stated that she has not seen or been aware of any additional incidents of that occurring since having spoken with the staff. Tracey was informed that the complaint would be substantiated but given that she had addressed the concern no further action would be requested.

Based on the information obtained this complaint is SUBSTANTIATED for violation of Licensing Standard 109.12(2)a-d The center shall not use as a form of discipline:

*Center does not use corporal punishment including spanking, shaking, or slapping.

*Punishment which is humiliating or frightening or causes pain or discomfort is not allowed. Children shall never be locked in a room or closet. When restraints are part of a treatment plan for a child with a disability authorized by a parent and a psychologist or psychiatrist, staff shall receive training on the safe and appropriate use of the restraint.

*Punishment or threat of punishment associated with illness, toilet training, or food or rest is not to be used.

*No child is subject to verbal abuse, threats, derogatory remarks about child or child's family.

All parties provided consistent and credible statements that staff at the center had used a high chair for time out with a child in response to the child's behavior. The child identified in the complaint was of an age and developmental level that they are able to sit and hold themselves upright in a regular chair and do not need the support provided by a high chair. It was reported that the purpose of using the high chair was to prevent the child from getting up. When used in this manner the high chair would be considered a mechanical restraint and would be prohibited.

Special Notes and Action Required:

Based on the information obtained this complaint is SUBSTANTIATED. All parties confirmed that the issue was addressed by center administration informing staff that the practice was prohibited. Other arrangements were made to provide a rocking chair in the classroom where staff and children could sit with staff providing support and comfort to children as needed. The center is also working to move from a consequence time-out based approach to a more supportive behavioral change model of helping children identify appropriate behavior choices.

No further action is required or recommended. A full license will remain in effect at this time.

Consultant's Signature:

Ray Salsbury

Date:

12-11-2025