

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Lil' Cubs		Enrollment: 125	License ID: 18046
Street: 1120 S G AVE	City: Nevada	IA Zip Code: 50201	County: Story
Mailing Address: 1120 S G AVE			
Mailing City: Nevada		IA Zip Code: 50201	
Director's Name: Amy Coogler/Abbigail Buttry		Center Phone Number: 515-382-3333	
On-Site Supervisors: Mariya Mennes		E-Mail Address: lilcubschildcare@gmail.com	

Date of Complaint: 05-01-2025**Date of Visit:** 05-14-2025☐ 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:**

Concerns reported that the center isn't being compliant with CACFP requirements, concerns about portion sizes and meals/snacks being served. They are serving lunches and snacks that aren't compliant with CACFP. Children are complaining that they are still hungry after snack.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.15(2) Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks. Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

Inspection Findings:

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

This worker went to the daycare for a visit and initially met with Mariya Mennes, assistant director. This worker explained the purpose of the visit. The cook wasn't working today and not available to be contacted. Mariya contacted the director, Abby Buttry, who joined the visit. They were aware there has been concerns from staff and some parents about the center not serving a good enough variety and portion sizes. They have been working on changing the menu. Amy, the owner, has been working on this as she has gotten involved. She's been talking with some of the parents regarding the concerns. A parent recently had a concern about peanut butter being served as her child had a peanut allergy. Peanut butter has been taken off the menu as there are several kids with peanut allergies. Kids didn't get plain jelly sandwiches. The kids didn't get an additional protein to their lunch. The cook mixed in sunbutter with the jelly because kids haven't really like sunbutter plain. The cook that is employed has been with the center for years, around four years total. The cook has taken several food classes. She is SAFE Serve certified. The cook is very familiar with serving sizes that are required with CACFP. The center follows CACFP but can't participate because they don't qualify. There was one thing causing confusion with parents in the one year old classroom. Staff were writing down on the communication sheets what children were eating versus what was served for lunch which was causing confusion. Three parents have expressed concerns about food related things. One parent is a nutritionist and Amy has been working with her as far as changing some things on the menu. Kids do get seconds if they ask for it. The cooks makes plates for meals. The amount each class needs for snack is taken to each classroom by the cook. The cook communicates with classes with the number of kids they have that day so she knows the right amount to send.

This worker reviewed a current menu. There was one item, vanilla wafers, shown as a snack that isn't credible. The rest of the menu was in compliance.

This worker went to classrooms and spoke with several staff independently. Staff provided statements about meals/snacks being served. Staff stated children have been served jelly sandwiches. The children did not get an additional food item with the meal to add protein. Staff stated some parents brought the children's lunch on the days when children didn't want that for lunch. Only one staff stated she could remember sunbutter being served with the jelly with some twins who attended the center and it this was over one year ago. Staff stated children have made statements they are still hungry after some snacks, most often when children get crackers for snack. Most of the staff said the cook doesn't ask them how many children they have prior to sending snacks for the day. Staff weren't sure how many crackers each child were to get per serving. One staff said some days the cook sends two packs/sleeves of crackers and other times the cook sends three packs/sleeves. This isn't dependent on the number of children as the cook doesn't ask how many children are there. Some staff said they give three or four crackers. They will give more if there are crackers leftover. One staff said she usually gives four crackers to each child. Staff stated they don't ask for more snack. A few staff stated they aren't comfortable talking about snacks or meals with the directors.

This worker met with Mariya and Abby a second time. They stated there have been conversations recently about how to address concerns. One thing they are planning is to bring cards to each room with the serving sizes for snack. There has been some breakdown with communication between the cooks and the staff. Abby said she doesn't really have much to do with the food service part of the daycare. Amy has been involved with things. She has been working on changing the menu. Mariya helps in the kitchen when the cook isn't working. Mariya said snack this morning was six crackers and half a banana for 3's to 5's and four crackers and half a banana.

5/15/25 This worker spoke to Amy Cooger, owner/director. Amy wanted to follow up regarding the concerns reported. Amy has made changes to the menus and is still reviewing them. They aren't going to be serving juice as often as part of the snack and will be serving two food items with water more often. She believes there was some sort of breakdown between the staff and the cook when peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were served as part of lunch. Sunbutter should have been served in place of the peanut butter. She isn't sure what happened, if possibly the cook served only jelly sandwiches if staff were saying the kids didn't like the sunbutter. The cook should have added another protein if she didn't serve sunbutter. She wasn't aware snack servings varied. She had mentioned maybe a month ago that a card with serving sizes should go with the snack so staff know what the appropriate amounts are. Peanut butter isn't being served anymore due to the number of kids with peanut allergies. She is making a few changes to ensure meals and snacks will meet CACFP requirements as well as serving sizes are the right amounts. She will continue to have conversations with the director, co director and the cook. She is going to be more involved with this area due to the concerns.

Special Notes and Action Required:

109.15(2)

Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.

VIOLATION

The owner is addressing the concerns regarding the violations. The owner has made some changes and plans on continuing being involved with the food planning for sometime.

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Consultant's Signature:

Melinda Larson, Child Care
Licensing Consultant

Date:

05-19-2025