Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Shooting Star Childcare **Enrollment:** 80 **License ID:** 52155

Street: 403 N Grant AVE **City:** Elkhart **IA** **Zip Code:** 50073 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 403 N Grant AVE

Mailing City: Elkhart **IA** **Zip Code:** 50073

Director's Name: Ashlee Sellers **Center Phone Number:** 515-367-0027

On-Site Supervisors: **E-Mail Address:** patricia@shootingstarchildcareia.com Mary@shootingstarchildcareia.com

Date of Complaint: 01-13-2025 **Date of Visit:** 02-18-2025

[ ] 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:

It is alleged that on 01/09/2025, Carrie Stroud (daycare staff) yanked a child (age 4) by his wrist, held the child in the air by their wrist, forcefully held the child onto the ground by his arms and also restrained the child on the floor with her feet. This resulted in the child sustaining bruising to his left arm and elbow.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

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:

The director, Ashlee Sellers, notified me of concerns that a 4 year old child had injuries that resulted from an encounter with staff Carrie Stroud. Ms Sellers sent the following email:

"...Per the video, there were two children, wrestling a little in the corner. Per our handbook, we allow rough and tumble and they weren't bothering anyone or being loud or hurting each other. Next thing we see on the video is her [Carrie Stroud staff] standing in one part of the room yelling across the room at a child who climbed on the bookshelf. Based on her tone, our cameras have sound, she was super frustrated. She then walked across the room to the two children telling them to get up. She grabbed them by the wrist and yanked them up, one in each hand. The four-year-old was sitting down and she pulled him by the wrist off the couch he was on and hung him from the wrist. She then forcefully picked him up under the arms and told him to stand up again. From the way he was sitting it doesn't look like he could stand up. He kind of fell a little and she grabbed him again by the wrist. She then picked him up halfway and carried him to the corner by the door to put him in "timeout", which we don't do. She said, "sit, you're in timeout." She then walked back over to the other child and said something I couldn't fully hear, and then told him to go and pointed. He walked away to the other side of the room. While this was going on, the 4 year old child who she put in timeout, crawled across the floor. She went and got him forcefully, picked him up, and then carried him to that corner again. She set him down in front of her, bent over, and held his arms down. He was trying to wiggle away from here and he fell back on his back. She then used her feet, as she was standing up, to tighten around his stomach and restrain him in place. She stood there while he tried to get away. He turned on his side and she tightened up squeezing him front/back to pin him down. He got away and she grabbed him under the arms and forcibly held him while she was in his face. There was too much noise to know what she said. At this point...she let him go. He went to the other side of the room where his brother was. A staff member came upfront and told me [the director] something was going on in that room, my AD [assistant director] went to check it out. She came upfront and said she thought it was something with the 4 year old but I had already seen the video. My AD went and got him and he had fingerprint marks on his arms, under his armpits, and the start of a bruise on his left arm at the elbow and in the inner left arm, I'm assuming from the pressure of her squeezing. He also had red marks on his back and he ended up with a bruise on his shoulder blade.

The director indicated that the staff's employment was terminated. Parents were notified immediately of the incident.

I was notified that a child protection assessment along with a child care center complaint joint assessment was initiated. Child Protection Worker (CPW) Placido had been assigned. I inquired with CPW Placido regarding this joint assessment.

1/29/25 CPW Placido documents a visit to the center; interviewing staff involved that confirmed the video footage documented in the above contact.

2/4/25 CPW Placido interviews Carrie Stroud, staff alleged responsible:
"CPW Placido spoke with Carrie. Carrie stated that the only thing she recalls from that day is that she was trying to get him to stand up
from the floor, and he let his body drop to the floor. Carrie stated that she didn’t mean to hurt the child and she is
apologetic about this. Carrie stated that the child was wanting to crawl through her legs and as soon as she realized what
he was wanting to do she let him crawl through her legs. Carrie denied that she physically harmed the child. Carrie described the room that she was in there was a lot of chaos going on. Carrie stated that when she was talked to by Ashley, Ashley stated that they allow the children to rough house at the daycare. Carrie stated that she didn’t even know that she hurt the child Carrie stated that she was only removing the child from hurting another child that was smaller than them"

2/10/25, notification that the child protection assessment was CONFIRMED (more than a preponderance of evidence that abuse/neglect has occurred).

2/18/25 I visited the center unannounced to observe the classroom. I spoke with the Director regarding the conclusion of this complaint.

There is substantial information that a licensing violation has occurred. The center was found to OUT OF COMPLIANCE with licensing standards per Iowa Administrative Code 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.

Special Notes and Action Required:

No further actions required.

The center director was notified on the concerns and immediately initiated an internal review, which included video footage of the incident. The internal review lead to the termination of staff involved. The center was cooperative with process of addressing the complaint.

Consultant's Signature:

Maggie Gibson, SWIV

Date:

03-20-2025