

Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Kids Inc.- Longfellow Elem	Enrollment: 34	License ID: 49172
Street: 2900 8th Av	City: Marion	IA Zip Code: 52302
Mailing Address: 1100 35th St		County: Linn
Mailing City: Marion	IA Zip Code: 52302	
Director's Name: Becky McNeal	Center Phone Number: 319-929-0151	
On-Site Supervisors: Elizabeth "Ellie" Heck	E-Mail Address: kidsincmarion@yahoo.com	

Date of Complaint: 04-16-2019 **Date of Visit:** 04-17-2019

Scheduled Unannounced NA

Non-Compliance with Regulations Found Compliance with Regulations Found NA

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended

PROVISIONAL license from _____ to _____

SUSPENSION of License

REVOCAION 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:

On 4/16/2019, a complainant reported staff Ellie was observed picking up a school-age child and placing the child into a large blue recycling bin. The complainant reported Ellie then closed the lid and walked away. The complainant reported being concerned the child may have been injured and was not supervised. The complainant also reported knowing Ellie has done this before to other childcare children.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.10(16)a The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.

Inspection Findings:

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Licensing conducted an unannounced visit to Kids Inc - Longfellow on 4/17/2019. The following is based upon a face-to-face interview with on-site supervisor Elizabeth "Ellie" Heck, a review of administrative items, and observations while on-site:

109.10(16)a Staff shall provide careful supervision. RULE NOT VIOLATED. IT SHALL BE NOTED, HOWEVER, STAFF ENGAGED IN UNPROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR.

- Ellie discussed a group game the children and staff play called "Chase and Catch". Ellie reported during this game, she "scoops" kids up and they respond by saying "I hope you don't throw me away". Ellie stated she then places the child she catches in the blue recyclable bin sometimes closing the lid.
- Ellie reported on 4/12/2019, the child she placed in the bin was a 1st grader. Ellie talked about how the child was laughing and saying it was funny the whole time.
- Licensing observed there to be two blue recyclable bins located just outside the school cafeteria/gymnasium where the childcare's primary space is located. The bins appear to be approximately 3-feet in height.
- Ellie reported all the children have fun playing the game and think it's funny when she catches one of them and places one of them in the bin. Ellie denied that any child has reported being scared or injured by the game. Ellie discussed how she also does not intend to harm anyone and/or make anyone upset during the game.
- Ellie discussed how she became aware that someone was upset with the game because the Marion Police Department came to the site on 4/12/2019 after having received a call about it. Ellie said she told the police the same thing she reported to licensing including that it was part of a game. Ellie denied there is any open police investigation.
- Ellie reported since this incident, she participated in a meeting with Kids Inc management including the owner Becky McNeal, multi-site school-age coordinator and Kids Inc - Marion director Chris Hale on the morning of 4/16/2019. Ellie talked about how the meeting included a conversation regarding staff professionalism, on-site supervisor conduct, and Kids Inc policies and procedures.
- Ellie reported she now understands how it was "not the greatest game", how she "made a bad choice" in playing it, and moving forward she will select different group games.
- Ellie stated "Chase and Catch" will no longer be played and children will not longer be placed into any bins.
- Ellie denied that any families/children have stopped attending the program due to the game or the incident.
- A written incident report dated 4/15/2019 was observed in the child's file and reviewed by licensing.

Special Notes and Action Required:

Based upon the above, no response to this report is requested.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.

Consultant's Signature:

Amy Lyons

Date:

04-19-2019