Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Kids Corral Before & After **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID:** 45905

Street: 206 W 2nd ST **City:** Washington **IA** **Zip Code:** 52353 **County:** Washington

Mailing Address: 1509 E Washington ST STE 3

Mailing City: Washington **IA** **Zip Code:** 52353

Director's Name: Donita Schults **Center Phone Number:** 319-591-8028

On-Site Supervisors: Kylea Leeman **E-Mail Address:** kidscorral8028@gmail.com

Date of Complaint: 08-19-2024 **Date of Visit:** 08-19-2024

[ ] Scheduled **[ ]** Unannounced **[X]** 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:

On 8/12/2024, it is alleged that Desiree D., staff member at Kid's Corral Inc. daycare center, gave a child (age 6) and another child (age 8) spoonfulls of cinnamon as part of The Cinnamon Challenge. The children ingested the cinnamon, causing them to vomit several times and experience breathing issues throughout the night.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.8(2)f Two adults are present more than 8 children are on the premises.
Two adults are present when more than 8 children are being transported in one vehicle.
One staff for school transportation; only in center-owned vehicle with parent authorization.
One additional staff when the center contracts for transportation for seven or more children for non-school related purposes.

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:

The determination of this report was based on staff and child statements, observation of the program area by HHS, and staff training and attendance records. Parent statements were also taken into consideration. Other HHS personnel met with the children and their families. Physician statements were reviewed as well as information online about ingesting cinnamon.

According to Web MD
"The Cinnamon Challenge
This unusual challenge has been shown in countless videos. It involves swallowing a spoonful of powdered cinnamon without taking a drink of water. The spice dries out the inside of your mouth, making it nearly impossible for anyone to succeed.

Most people immediately cough out a huge puff of cinnamon-colored powder. Some people vomit from the strong flavor. Others have coughing fits after breathing in the fine powder. In rare cases, people are hospitalized after inhaling powder into the lungs and need to be placed on ventilators."

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

On 8/19/24 a mother of two children at the center contacted HHS. She indicated both children were given cinnamon while in care as part of a "Cinnamon Challenge". Mother indicated they were sick and queasy the rest of the night at home after being given cinnamon at childcare. Parents have reached out to the On Site Supervisor with concerns. Mother of the child indicated one child has significant health issues and the cinnamon could have been life threatening. She indicated both children indicated Desi was providing care alone and no On Site Supervisor or Director was present.

I contacted the Director on 8/19/24. She reported she was present that date, but was gone for an hour at the other center. Director Schults indicated when she arrived back at the building children were playing tag and having a water fight. She indicated no children were reporting or observed to have discomfort or any health related issues. She indicated the staff in charge was written up and is no longer working in that building for allowing the children to run around the room and have a water fight. Director Schults indicated she was not aware of a Cinnamon Challenge taking place in her absence.

I talked with staff member Desiree D. on 8/20/24. She stated she was making cinnamon toast for breakfast. She stated they ran out of the cinnamon/sugar mixture. The children were asking about why they had to mix the cinnamon and sugar and she explained that cinnamon alone was spicy. She indicated she let them try cinnamon on only the tip of a plastic spoon. She indicated she was not aware of a Cinnamon Challenge popular on social media. Six children tried the cinnamon on different spoons. Each spoon only contained cinnamon on the tip of the spoon. She indicated she was not aware that cinnamon could cause harm. She indicated none of the children puked, gagged, had watery eyes or complained of pain or discomfort. She indicated the children were running around the room playing tag and got into a water fight. She indicated Dolly, the Director walked in during the water fight and stopped this. She indicated they all ate lunch and showed no physical discomfort until she left at 5. She indicated she was not aware of children vomiting or displaying discomfort or side effects of tasting the cinnamon. Desiree D. indicated she had no training on working in the school age program and was "thrown in" to the room. She indicated she would have to leave the room throughout the day while using the restroom which left 15 children unattended.

Other HHS personnel and law enforcement interviewed each child involved at school. All children separately showed them a heaping spoonful of sugar to demonstrate the amount of cinnamon they were given by Desiree D.. All children indicated they were participating in a cinnamon challenge. They stated Desiree D. told them they had to wait until the Director was not present to finish the cinnamon challenge with the rest of the children. Children stated Desiree D. told them not to tell anyone about the Cinnamon Challenge.

Staff training records were reviewed. Employees are required to have 6 hours of professional development training per year. Desiree D. had 6 hours within the past year including a class on Active Supervision taken in October 2023.

1. 109.10(16)a The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision. Desiree D. reported giving 6 children small amounts of cinnamon on the tip of a plastic spoon. Children reported she gave each child a heaping spoonful of cinnamon to each child who participated in the challenge. They indicated Desiree D. instructed them not to tell anyone about the challenge. Desiree D. then indicated she allowed children to play tag indoors and that no children had adverse effects from the cinnamon. At least two children reported one child partially vomited from ingesting cinnamon.

Desiree D. reported she was not given breaks and was forced to leave children unsupervised when she took restroom breaks throughout the day. Children must be carefully supervised throughout the day while in care. Children should not be given cinnamon, which is a potential allergen. Staff should not allow children to play tag and have water fights in a second story room indoors, nor leave a room of 15 children unattended for breaks. The center should assure staff are present to allow staff breaks. VIOLATION

2. 109.8(2)f Two adults are present more than 8 children are on the premises. One staff member was alone with fifteen children. VIOLATION

Special Notes and Action Required:

The program is working with Child Care Resource and Referral and Iowa Department of Public Health on health and safety issues as well as curriculum (lesson plans), schedules and routines. Desiree D. is no longer working with the school age program.

CCR&R Consultant Tabitha Copeland visited the center the first week of August. She stated in an email 8/8/24,

"Hello Dolly and Kylea,
I wanted to thank you for allowing Tricia and myself to come visit. I noticed all the hard work staff put in arranging the room to have centers for the school agers that will allow for engaging play and easy staff supervision. I also really enjoyed watching Desi do the Lego bingo with the children, what a fun way to engage the children and for staff to build a positive relationship with them all!

Just a brief recap of what we discussed to help you meet HHS requirements:

Site book: we went through and identified pieces that needed updated and I gave you several of the newer HHS forms, also see attached

Emergency procedure review for staff: gave the newest EP staff review acknowledgment sheet, see attached, and Dolly and Kylea say staff have are doing monthly drill and have reviewed procedures this year.

Staff files: Dolly stated all staff files are at man site. Will check to see if HHS Jill Seibert (who is CC'd on this email) wishes a copy to be kept on the Before and after site of if they can be at the main site only. Dolly states that a PD day was held in June and all staff at both sites are up to date on required trainings (CPR, Mandatory reporter ,etc.) and that they have the required training hours for the year. Dolly states all staff at both sites have had SING and Fingerprint results done and are in. Again, need to check with Jill if she wants the results at the Before and after for those staff or if at the main site is fine.

Menus/CACFP requirements: We discussed the CACFP which I believe Dolly stated both programs were a part of and the needed requirements to meet HHS regulations. I provided the CACFP best practice info, see attached, and did note that you had menus from at least the last month or more in the site book. Current menu met CACFP requirements but if you have questions, I encourage you to reach out to your CACFP sponsor. Stated that the program does a rotating menu that meets CACFP

Curriculum: Discussed need to plan activities, keep copies of past curriculum for minimum of 1 year. Provided Curriculum planning template and am attaching 2 example curriculums for staff to look at and use to help . The one PreK can be adopted for school aged and the Olympic information is fun activities information that can be adapted to meet the needs and interest levels of most children.

We also discussed making sure staff know where HHS information is kept, putting a not in a place where they can read it if they forget with the nervousness that a HHS visit can bring and me stopping by once or twice unannounced to help staff become more relaxed with visitors to the program.

Thank you again for allowing us to support your program and please reach out if there are things I missed sending you for resources or if there is anything else I can do.

The Olympics begin soon and there are many things you can add to your curriculum. Here are a few websites to help with activities for Olympics.
https://www.pre-kpages.com/activities-olympics-preschoolers/

20 Olympic Themed Games For Preschool And Kindergarten Kids
Fun Olympic games for kids and Olympic themed activities to learn about sports and teamwork for preschool, pre-k, and kindergarten.
www.pre-kpages.com

https://pocketofpreschool.com/olympics-activities-preschool-prek-kindergar/

Olympics Activities for Preschool, Pre-k, and Kindergarten - Pocket of Preschool
Check out some of my favorite Olympic activities and centers for preschool, pre-k, and kindergarten students! There are ideas for the Summer Olympics and Winter Olympics, and some that will...
pocketofpreschool.com

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CCNC Toni Krana sent the center information on CPR/1st Aid training on 8/19/24. A CPR class was scheduled in Washington in June for staff as well. CCNC Krana will make an unannounced visit to the program in the next month.

Consultant's Signature:

Jill Seibert

Date:

09-18-2024