Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Aquin Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 101 **License ID:** 19237

Street: 210 Grant ST NW **City:** Cascade **IA** **Zip Code:** 52033 **County:** Dubuque

Mailing Address: PO Box 460

Mailing City: Cascade **IA** **Zip Code:** 52033

Director's Name: Joann O'Connell **Center Phone Number:** 563-852-7020

On-Site Supervisors: **E-Mail Address:** aquinlittleangels@aquin.org joconnell@aquin.org

Date of Complaint: 02-28-2025 **Date of Visit:** 03-04-2025

[ ] 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 2/26/2025 staff Tina H. left a two year old child outside in the fenced outdoor play area unsupervised for five to 10 minutes.

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:

It is noted that the center director, Joann O'Connell, notified the licensing consultant of this incident via email on 2/27/25 . The licensing consultant corresponded with Joann regarding details of the incident, and HHS worker Carrie Habel visited the center on 3/4/25 to discuss the incident further with Joann and the staff. HHS Habel contacted the accused staff, Tina H., who no longer works at the center as of 2/27/25, and HHS Habel also visited the child and family. The following is information gathered by the licensing consultant as well as HHS Habel.

109.10(16)a The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision. VIOLATED
Joann reported that the group of children and two staff were in the process of returning inside after playing outside in the outdoor play area. It was during this time that staff Tina H., while helping to get the children's boots off as her group of five children were coming inside, failed to realize the child was not with the group. Tina said she counted when they were at the door and everyone was there but did not count again once she got everyone inside. The child was outside for about five to 10 minutes unsupervised until a staff from another classroom found the child. The child was found sitting on the ground next to the door. The play area is fenced all the way around. The child was dressed appropriately in a coat and boots, and the temperature was 51 degrees. Joann stated Tina had worked at the center for about two years. Joann stated Tina knew policy and procedure and did not follow the procedure for when she shut the door. HHS Habel stated staff Tina admitted to the incident but did not think that the child was outside alone for as long as what was stated. HHS Habel stated that Tina was remorseful about the incident. The center is cited for a licensing violation because the child was left unsupervised. It is noted that the incident was accidental in nature, and the child was not harmed.

Special Notes and Action Required:

The center director reports that she and her assistant have reviewed protocol and made changes to ensure that everyone knew what to do in the future. She stated she sent out to all staff through email in her weekly notes the center's policy and procedure for supervision. She stated they talked to all staff directly one on one about supervision and about the center's policy and procedure. She stated she also planned to call the child care nurse consultant and request she come to the center to talk to staff about supervision on the playground and during transitions. The director shall continue to monitor closely that staff are following the center's policies and procedures and to make any necessary adjustments promptly.

Consultant's Signature:

Heidi Hungate

Date:

04-03-2025