

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center:	Little Rascals Daycare and Preschool	Enrollment:	85	License ID:	19253
Street:	1125 Rockdale Rd	City:	Dubuque	IA Zip Code:	52003
County:	Dubuque				
Mailing Address:	1125 Rockdale Rd				
Mailing City:	Dubuque	IA Zip Code:	52003		
Director's Name:	Alexandria Rath	Center Phone Number:	563-582-2400		
On-Site Supervisors:	Tabitha Rolfe	E-Mail Address:	littlerascalsdubuque@hotmail.com		

Date of Complaint: 09-15-2025**Date of Visit:** 09-19-2025☐ 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:**

It is alleged that staff Sarah W. hit a one year old child on the head with force. There were no injuries observed. The center director is aware of the incident and contacted the parent on the evening of the incident. An incident report was not provided. Concerns have been previously reported to the director about this staff person, but nothing has been done about it.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.12(2)a-d The center shall not use as a form of discipline: Center does not use corporal punishment including spanking, shaking, or slapping. Punishment which is humiliating or frightening or causes pain or discomfort is not allowed. Children shall never be locked in a room or closet. When restraints are part of a treatment plan for a child with a disability authorized by a parent and a psychologist or psychiatrist, staff shall receive training on the safe and appropriate use of the restraint. Punishment or threat of punishment associated with illness, toilet training, or food or rest is not to be used. No child is subject to verbal abuse, threats, derogatory remarks about child or child's family.

Inspection Findings:

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The center was visited unannounced by the licensing consultant on 9/9/25 to discuss the reported concerns with the center owner/director, Alexandria (Alex) Rath, and a staff who observed the incident. The on site supervisor for the center, Tabitha Rolfe, was not present at the center at the time of this visit. It is noted that Alex had contacted the licensing consultant about the incident via email shortly after she became aware of it and prior to this complaint being initiated.

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Alex provided the following details about the incident: The incident happened on 9/12/25 just before 3pm, and Tabitha was notified of the incident at 4:45pm. Tabitha called Alex right away. Alex and Tabitha gathered more information immediately. They were told that staff Sarah W. hit the child once on the back of the head, the child cried briefly, and then was fine when they went outside to play shortly after the incident. The incident was apparently staff Sarah W.'s response to the child hitting another child. Alex stated this child has been hitting other children. Alex and Tabitha called staff Sarah W. immediately. Staff Sarah W. denied the incident. Alex stated staff Sarah W. worked at the center for two years. In that time she has had two write ups due to concerns with the way that she talked to a parent or her demeanor with a parent, and she has also been reminded not to shout at the children on occasion. Alex determined that the report of the incident was credible and made the decision to terminate staff Sarah W.'s employment at the center. Alex stated she contacted the parent that evening about the incident and then met additionally with the parents the following day. Alex stated the parent requested a written incident report, and it was provided to the parent. Alex showed a copy of the incident report to the licensing consultant. It is noted that it is not dated by the parent signature until 9/17/25. The licensing consultant spoke with a staff who witnessed the incident. She described the incident as noted above. She stated she had observed staff Sarah W. tap children on the head before and yell at children a lot, but she did not tell Alex or Tabitha about this at the time. She stated there had never been any injuries including for this incident. The licensing consultant reminded the staff of her responsibilities to notify her supervisor about any incidents immediately and to also consider her responsibilities as a mandatory reporter. She stated she understood. The center is cited with regard to this complaint. It is determined that staff Sarah W. more than likely did hit the child as a form of discipline in response to the child hitting another child. This is not appropriate response for a child care provider and is a licensing violation.

Special Notes and Action Required:

It appears that the center director and on site supervisor addressed the incident immediately after becoming aware of it and it was decided to terminate the staff's employment at the center. The center director was reminded that even when more minor concerns have been observed or identified about a particular staff at the center this should alert administration to provide close oversight to avoid further or escalated incidents. It is also important to remind all staff of their reporting responsibilities so that any incidents of concern are addressed promptly.

Consultant's Signature:

Heidi Hungate

Date:

09-25-2025