

**Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT**

Name of Center: Early Learners Child Development Ctr on Duggan	Enrollment: 53	License ID: 4131000028	
Street: 610 Duggan Dr	City: Dubuque	IA Zip Code: 52001	County: Dubuque
Mailing Address: 610 Duggan Dr			
Mailing City: Dubuque	IA Zip Code: 52001		
Director's Name: Dana Watts	Center Phone Number: 563-556-8160		
On-Site Supervisors: same	E-Mail Address: elcdonduggan@gmail.com		

Date of Complaint: 10/17/2014

Date of Visit: 12/29/2014

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

REVOCATION of License

Summary of Complaint:

18 month old child fell and punctured hand on a rusty nail on an item outside by a dumpster while at the child care center on 10/16/14. The center director told the mother the child fell and cut hand on a rock instead of a nail. The fire truck had been at the center to visit, and things were chaotic. It is believed that the child fell and hit a nail on the lattice work behind the dumpster.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.11(3) a(1) Center and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
CITED.

Inspection Findings:

An unannounced visit was completed at the center on 12/29/14. The center director, Dana Watts, was interviewed regarding the concerns. Dana was familiar with the incident. Dana stated as the children were coming down from the fire truck which was visiting the center that day, the child ran and fell. Dana stated there were a bunch of leaves where the child fell so they at first did not see how the child had injured the hand. Dana stated she was present at the center when the incident happened, and she was the one who called the father to come pick up the child because she felt the child needed to be seen. She described the injury to look like a flap of skin cut on the hand with not alot of bleeding. Dana stated she believed that the child had to have two stitches as a result of the injury. Dana stated she immediately sent a staff outside right away to look at the area where the injury happened. She stated she also went out herself after contacting the parent(s). She stated the incident happened at the bottom of the driveway to the center. The firetruck had been parked at the top of the driveway. Dana stated the children had been headed back down the driveway to re-enter the building after the visit. Dana noted that the center has been completing some outdoor area rennovations including landscaping and sod as well as re-fencing. She stated the sandbox area had been under repair and described that the top seat panel of the sandbox had been removed and had not been put back on entirely. She stated this top piece had been laying to the side of the sandbox near the driveway and there was a nail/screw sticking out. She stated that piece was immediately removed from

the area and thrown behind the fence in an area that would not be accessible to the children.

It is noted that historically the center has had wooden lattice work acting as "fencing" on the outdoor area and concerns with the condition of this material and staples/nails exposed have been noted on previous licensing reports. Dana denied that the lattice work was involved with this incident. Dana stated the lattice work is not even present on the outdoor area any longer, as removing this has been part of the outdoor area renovations.

Dana provided a copy of the written incident report. The report states, "(Child) fell on a board and cut hand". Staff signed the report, and initials are present at the "parent initials" line. It is noted that the written report does not indicate anywhere specifically that the parent was notified on the same day as the incident, and though that is not really in question with this particular incident, the center needs to ensure that incident reports document this clearly. Dana provided a copy of the center's newer incident report form which does allow for this requirement and stated this was an oversight that an older form was used.

The licensing consultant and Dana visited the outdoor area so that Dana could show what she had described to have occurred. Dana showed where the top border piece of the sand box had been removed from the area accessible to the children. It was immediately noted, however, that the remaining boards/framework of the sandbox (which would be accessible to the children) still had screws sticking out in places. There were also areas of splintery/broken wood. It was noted with the director that this needed immediate attention. Dana stated she would call the center's handyman person to have this repaired yet today. She would email photos of the repairs to the licensing consultant yet today.

It was noted that part of the fence has been removed. Dana stated this will be replaced and other parts of the fence that need repair will be repaired. Dana stated this is to occur in the Spring.

Special Notes and Action Required:

The child was injured on the center premises in/at the outdoor area in a manner that could have been avoided by the center had staff been properly completing the required outdoor area safety inspections and had staff been immediately correcting any items of concern. Of additional concern was that there were remaining screws sticking out and presenting additional safety hazards even after this incident. The center director also acknowledged this. The center director did email the licensing consultant later on the same day as this visit providing pictures showing that the areas of concern had been removed from the outdoor area.

The center will need to evaluate how outdoor area safety inspections are completed at the center to ensure that a qualified person is inspecting the area, identifying, documenting, and reporting any concerns to the center director, and that concerns are addressed immediately also documenting when, how, and who completed the repairs. The center will also need to follow through with the remaining outdoor area renovations including fence repairs and re-installing the fence/gate area so that the outdoor area is entirely fenced.

Heidi Hungate, MSW
DHS Child Care Licensing Consultant

Consultant's Signature:



Date:

01/06/2015