

children when they have been at the pool. Amanda stated she attempted to follow up with the child's mother and left a message, however, the mother never returned the call. Amanda recalled that the child's mother had told Sarah Fishwild (person in charge of the board of directors for this center) earlier this summer when enrolling the child at the center that the child lies and makes up stories. Amanda stated this particular child had attended the center in the past and had left the center because of behavior concerns but the mother re-enrolled the child this past summer because there were no other alternatives.

Staff Shannon stated she did work with the school age children for part of the summer. She stated she was not present at the pool often for those trips. She was not aware of any incidents occurring at the pool. She stated she was aware of a few incidents of horseplay at the center's outdoor area where staff have had to redirect the children, however, she was not aware of any children being injured specifically.

Staff Colleen stated she is in charge of the school age program at the center. She stated there are three rooms that handle school age children during the summer. She stated she works in one of them but does have interaction with the other groups in the morning when the children are combined. She stated this particular child was not in her room, however, she was familiar with the child. She stated she does know this child to also be an instigator with peers. She stated Brittany W. and Trista P. were the two main staff in this child's room. She stated she knew of no concerns with staff Brittany. She stated there were concerns with staff Trista regarding tone of voice and yelling at the children. She stated she brought this up with Sarah Fishwild, and staff Trista was let go and no longer employed at the center. She stated this was around the end of July / beginning of August. Staff Colleen stated there were never concerns regarding the level of interaction between the staff and children, and she did not have concerns that the staff would not intervene if children were becoming physical with one another. She described staff Brittany as being wonderful with the children.

She stated when the center goes to the pool (once per week) there are at least four staff in the pool with the children. She stated staff would put a stop to any horseplay in the pool. She stated she never heard anything about there being any incidents at the pool but did recall the child's mother coming in to talk to her about the concerns. She stated at the time she had recalled the specific date the mother was referring to, and she stated she herself was watching this child on that date. She stated there was no incident of a child trying to drown the child and recalled that the child had been instigating others on that day. She stated she knew nothing of any injuries ever happening to this child at the center but did know this child to be quite a physical child.

She stated the incident where the child lost the child's shoe did occur on a trip to Maquoketa Caves. She stated the children were creek stomping. She stated there is a designated area for this and that parents generally know this happens on this trip. She stated the water is waist high. She stated the staff are also in the water with the children. She stated the water is creek water, and thus is not clear, but that it moves very slow. She stated the child's shoe did get stuck in the mud of the creek, and no one could find it.

The child's file was reviewed for incident reports. Eight reports were found for the summer months. Older reports were quite older.

One report, dated 6/17/13, was written for an incident when this child and another were playing in the block center and the other child threw a block at the child hitting the child's mouth. The report notes the child pinched this child's cheeks. The report notes only that no first aid treatment was needed. The report is signed by the parent and documents that the mother was notified at 3:45pm that day. Another incident report documents when another child threw a toy phone at the child's left eye on 6/20/13. The report notes the two children had been bugging each other for most of that morning. The report indicates the child was given a cold pack for the child's eye. The report is signed by the parent and indicates the mother was notified on that day at 3:50pm. Another incident report, dated 6/20/13, documents this child and another child hitting and throwing things at each other while outside. The report documents that both children were talked to about their behaviors. This report is also signed by the mother and documents she was told at 3:50pm that day. A 7/9/13 incident report documents while at the pool another child tripped and fell accidentally dunking this child. This child then purposely jumped on the other child and scratched that child leaving large red marks on the other child's back. This report is signed by the mother and indicates she was told about the incident at 3:40pm that day.

A 6/12/13 incident report documents this child hitting another child in the face, unknown if on purpose or accidental. A 6/25/13 incident report documents this child scraping own back when getting up from rest time while laying under a table. A 6/25/13 incident report documents another child pushing this child in the mud outside the Y. The report indicates this child then took a stick from the ground and repeatedly scraped and stabbed another child on the chest and arm leaving very long, dark red marks. The report indicates this child was taken back to the center and Sarah Fishwild was contacted. A 6/26/13 incident report documents the child having own finger smashed when a parent opened the door and the child's finger was in the door.

Special Notes and Action Required:

With regard to the complaint, there are not specific licensing violations identified for this report, however, there is additional follow up requested. It is recommended that the center director speak with the local CCRR consultant and consider scheduling an observation for the consultant to observe the school age classroom and offer input for careful activity planning, structure, and/or behavior management techniques. The incident reports suggest that, at the very least, there are times when behaviors are somewhat out of control and children are hurting each other. It is unclear at this time the level of staff intervention. Additional staff training in the area of managing difficult behaviors as well as behavior management plans for children with difficult behaviors is also strongly recommended.

Discussion occurred regarding the creek play activity. It is recommended that the center receive specific permission from parents for children to be allowed to play in this creek or that the center may reconsider whether this is a safe activity. It is noted the director did state she did not feel that the center would continue this activity in the future.

The center shall follow up with the licensing consultant, in writing, within 30 days of receiving this report as to what plans the center has initiated with regard to the above recommendations.

Heidi Hungate, MSW
DHS Child Care Licensing Consultant

Consultant's Signature:

Date:

09/24/2013

Handwritten signature of Heidi L. Hungate in cursive script.