

down so traffic could not use the road. Someone from the farmer's market saw the child and returned him to the center. Ms. Streich estimates the child was away from his classroom for approximately ten minutes.

Ms. Streich states the teacher thought the child was in the bathroom during the time he was missing. The bathroom is located in the classroom. Ms. Streich has placed Velcro on the area where the child escaped the room from. This does make it more difficult to move the wall. She reports the rug used for circle time had been in the back corner of the room and they also moved the rug closer to this area and the bathroom to improve supervision.

Amanda, the teacher in the classroom, was interviewed. Amanda states the children had just finished nap and snack and then they were moving to the rug used for circle time so Amanda could read the children a book. Amanda states she was dealing with a couple of children and their behaviors on the rug. She started to read the book to the children in the hopes it would settle the children down. Amanda states the child in question takes a little longer in the bathroom because he has a pull-up for nap, so she did not think it was unusual for him to be in the bathroom longer than others.

Amanda states she was caring for nine or ten children and she was the only staff member in the room at the time. Amanda states she was reading the book and the children were getting restless so she decided to stop reading the book and take the children outside. They walked over to get the children's jackets and that is when she noticed the child was missing. She checked the bathroom and he was not in there. She was going to alert Ms. Streich or Connie (at the front desk), but that is when the child was being brought in the front door with an adult.

Amanda states she and Ms. Streich talked with the child when he was returned about what happened. This is when he walked them through the path he had taken when he left the room.

Ms. Streich states she called the child's foster mother right away. She said she was not surprised because the child has a history of wandering and they have alarms at their house as a result. Ms. Streich and Amanda state they have not had previous problems with him wandering away from the center. Amanda states they went on a walking field trip recently and he did fine holding another child's hand. Ms. Streich states the foster mother reportedly told someone the child had a history of wandering. The child just moved to his current room from the three-year-old room a couple weeks ago, so the conversation may have been with the three-year-old teacher.

Amanda states they have a taped green line as a barrier into and out of the room. She reports when children move over to the room she has to teach them not to cross the tape. Amanda states the child would go past the line and he did not seem to understand that it was not okay to leave the room.

I asked Ms. Streich what the program was doing to prevent something like this from occurring again. Ms. Streich reiterated that she had used Velcro to make the wall more secure. They have also moved the rug closer to the area for better supervision. Ms. Streich states they are discussing putting an alarm on the back door the child used. This may be difficult because this is also the door used for deliveries. They have also discussed security cameras and having the Head Start program use the back door as their main entrance so a staff member would be back there. Ms. Streich states all of the staff members at the center are on alert that the child is a wanderer.

Amanda states there are quite a few children with behaviors in the room. AEA is assisting the center with this. Amanda states the children mostly throw tantrums, they are not aggressive. I recommended having an additional staff member in the room. Ms. Streich states they have maintained the twelve to one ratio in the room, which is in compliance with licensing standards. She reports they have a foster grandparent in the room from 8:00-3:00. The incident occurred after this time. Amanda states they never know what the day is going to bring. They have good days and bad days. The incident occurred during a high transition period of the day because several parents pick up children during this time. Amanda states she feels comfortable in the room alone, but if there are unknown behaviors it may be a good idea to have an additional staff member.

Amanda was remorseful about the incident. She states she wonders what she could have done better to protect the child.

On 10/23/13 I discussed this case with supervisor, Todd Savage, to keep him updated.

On 10/31/13 I made a collateral phone contact with Jill Streich, the director of the program, to discuss the additional allegations. Ms. Streich states the staff members came and reported the incident to her right away. They determined there had only been about two to three minutes when the child was not within staff member's vision.

The playground is divided into three zones. There were four staff members outside, but one was talking with a parent at the gate as

a child was being checked out of the program for the day. There was one staff member in each of the three zones. The staff member in the zone where the incident occurred was dealing with a child who had taken another child's hat and was running around the play area and would not give the hat back. When the teacher was finished dealing with that incident she found the two children under the slide. The child in question had the other child's pants down and was kissing his bottom. Both parents were contacted immediately and the child in question will no longer be attending the center.

Ms. Streich states she talked with both boys. The child in question said something about poking him with a shovel. He also said that the other child fell and he kissed his bottom to make it better. Both boys said the other child fell down, but the sequence they provided did not make sense.

The mother for the second child came to the center to talk with Ms. Streich. The mother reported that the child told her that he had fallen down and the child in question kissed it to make it better. The mother did not feel the incident was sexual in any way and was not upset. Ms. Streich states they have never seen sexualized behaviors from the child at the center.

Ms. Streich states she did tell staff members to check on the child frequently after the incident where he walked away from the center, but she never told them he had to be in their sight constantly.

Special Notes and Action Required:

109.10 (16). Supervision. Assigned staff, substitutes and volunteers shall provide careful supervision. VIOLATED. A child left the center premises for approximately ten minutes without the knowledge of staff members. Adequate and careful supervision was not provided on this occasion.

Regarding the incident on the playground, it appears the incident happened very quickly under a slide, while the staff member was dealing with the behaviors of other children. The center did deal with the situation immediately and contacted both parents.

I am recommending the center develop a plan to make the four and five-year-old classroom more secure. You will need to confirm with the fire marshal that it is okay to use Velcro to secure the temporary wall to the permanent wall since this is used for the tornado evacuation procedures. I am expecting that staff members check on children in the bathroom more frequently. If a four-year-old child is in the bathroom for a lengthy period of time, staff members should be checking on the child and asking if they need assistance. I would recommend counting the children in the room frequently. I am recommending not starting an activity, such as reading a book, until you have counted the children and they are all present. This way the teacher does not become distracted and forget about a child. If there are behaviors from children in the classroom that distract staff members then you may need to add an additional staff member to this room so that it is safe.

At this time, the status of the center's license is unchanged. If you would like to respond to this report, please do so in writing and I will include the information in the licensing file.

Consultant's Signature:

Date:

11/04/2013

