



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

6/30/2014

Date Complaint Received:	6/27/14
Complaint Received By:	DHS
Provider Name and Location:	Linda Coplan, 955 18 th Street, Bettendorf, IA 52722

Complaint:

DHS received a complaint on 6/27/14 that Linda Coplan has left young children out in her front fenced play yard unattended while she was mowing the yard. Additional school age children were also in the back yard while Linda was mowing. Additional concern included a school age child jumping off the top of a Little Tykes square slide. The lawnmower was reportedly still in the provider's yard where the children play a day after Linda was mowing.

Rule Basis:

441 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 110.5(1) Conditions in the home are safe, sanitary and free of hazards. 110.5(1)h: A safe outdoor play area is maintained in good condition throughout the year. 110.5(9)a: Gives careful supervision at all times.

Findings:

On 6/30/14, DHS worker Kathy Huinker and Becky Kalar visited the Linda Coplan registered child development home to address the above complaint. Linda was home with five day care children. Linda stated that she did have a couple of toddlers in the play yard while she was mowing last week, as well as school children in the back/side yard. Linda acknowledged the safety concerns in mowing the lawn while she is supposed to be supervising children and also the concerns of possible debris flying around and hurting the children while mowing. Linda agreed that she would discontinue mowing during child care hours at once. Discussed with Linda a child jumping off a slide in the side yard. Linda stated that she does have a few school agers that continue to do this despite Linda constantly telling them not to.

While in the home, Linda had her two white dogs sitting in the recliner with her, in the same room as day care children. Linda signed a safety plan with DHS on 5/19/14 that stated she would keep her dogs away from child care children during daycare hours. Linda was not following this plan. Linda did have her other dog Scruffy in the kitchen gated off from the children. Scruffy is the dog that recently bit a child in Linda's home.

The lawnmower was still observed outside in Linda's yard on 6/30/14, which constitutes an additional safety hazard.

There is a preponderance of evidence to support the concern that Linda was not properly supervising her day care children on 6/26/14 as she was admittedly mowing the lawn. There is also a preponderance of evidence to support that Linda's yard was not safe on 6/26/14, 6/27/14, and 6/30/14. Finally, there is a preponderance of evidence to support that Linda is not following the agreed upon safety plan involving her dogs and keeping them away from day care children.

Resolution:

Linda agreed to discontinue mowing or doing any lawn or outdoor activity while day care children are present. A separate safety plan is being sent to Linda for her signature. Linda was again reminded that she agreed to keep all of the dogs away from the day care children, not just Scruffy. Linda is currently providing registered child care pending appeal.

If you have any questions regarding this matter feel free to contact me at 563-326-8215 or email address khuinke@dhs.state.ia.us.

Sincerely,

Kathy Huinker, SWII
Social Worker

MACHELLE PEZLEY

Social Work Supervisor