

involved staff member.

The incident report reads, "While Jennifer (HS lead teacher) was putting sunscreen on children, I was on the opposite side of the room with children waiting to go outside. An active child was acting as line leader at my suggestion. He repeatedly pushed children who came near him. I attempted to re-direct w/ songs, etc. The 4th or 5th time (the child) pushed a child I impulsively slapped (the child) on the stomach. He looked surprised then began to cry. I immediately picked him up, apologized, and spoke comforting words. He 'melted' into my arms as I patted his back and asked if he was okay. He said yes. I held him about 3-4 minutes until the rest of the children were in line & we went outside. He began to play w/ other children. I immediately told Jennifer G., Brenda S., & Becky S. about the incident who asked me to complete this report."

Ms. Stockner states the child still attends the program. The agency attorney is involved. Becky Schuck, the site supervisor, and Ms. Stockner talked to the mother by phone on Friday. The mother's reaction was that she was thankful for the call and she reported the child never mentioned the incident to her. The mother was not angry, but was surprised the child had not said anything. Ms. Stockner states she apologized to the mother and informed her there was not an injury.

On 09/25/13 I made a collateral phone contact with the Roma. She reports the children had only been in class for three days the day of the incident (09/05/13). She reports the room was chaotic and there were twelve or thirteen children that day. Roma states one of the children needs one on one care and they were aware that the child in question may have behavior challenges. Roma states the lead teacher, Jennifer G., was present and so was a volunteer the day of the incident, but she does not believe anyone witnessed it. Jennifer was putting sunscreen on the children across the room and she thought the volunteer was either picking up toys, addressing a child under one of the tables who was acting out or she may have left by that point.

Roma states the children have problems staying in line because they are new to the program. She went toward the door and worked with the children lining up. The child in question was there first. When another child approached where they were lining up the child in question pushed the other child. Roma states she has taken PBIS training and she knows how to redirect. She gave several warnings to the child and gave him the job of being line leader in an effort to redirect his behaviors.

She reports the child continued to push and after the third or fourth time Roma squatted down beside him and started to tell him firmly that he needed to stop. She states as the words were coming out of her mouth he pushed a child again and she impulsively put her arm and hand up to restrain him and protect the other child. She states she knows she wrote "slap" in her statement, but states that was a poor choice of words. She reports she did not use any degree of force when she put her arm up. She gave the example of being in a car and putting your arm to protect the passenger of you have to step on the breaks suddenly. Roma said the child did not receive an injury.

Roma states the child looked surprised and he hung his head and whimpered. She reports he did not actually cry. She immediately picked him up and patted him on the back to comfort him and she apologized. Roma said the child "melted into her" and received the comfort. She said she probably held the child for three minutes and then they went outside and she told Jennifer right away. They checked the child's stomach and there was no injury. He acted fine on the playground.

Roma states she asked Jennifer if she should write something up. Roma spoke with Brenda S., the family development specialist that same day to find out what she should do. She also called and left a message for Becky S., the site supervisor. Becky did not respond to the phone call, but did respond when Roma texted her asking her to call her immediately. Becky advised her to write an incident report while it was fresh in her mind.

Roma states she has worked for MICA for nine years. She has called and asked questions and is frustrated by their lack of response. Roma is no longer working for MICA. Roma was not aware of any police involvement and has not been contacted by the Tama Police Department. Roma states she has never been involved with an incident like this in her life.

Special Notes and Action Required:

109.12(2)a-d. Discipline does not allow for corporal punishment; punishment that causes humiliation, fear, pain or discomfort VIOLATED. The substitute staff member admitted to "impulsively" slapping the child on the stomach. This is a direct violation of the discipline licensing standard.

At this time, the status of the center's license is unchanged. I would like to thank the center for their cooperation. 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:

Becky Inset

Date:

09/27/2013