

Deb recalled there was an incident where a child's elbow was pulled out of socket during a diaper change. She recalled that the child may have started to fall as the child was walking up the steps to the diaper changing surface and staff assisted to keep from falling, subsequently resulting in the injury to the arm. Deb stated the parent was called right away. Deb and Patti recalled that the parent's comment at the time was rather nonchalant stating that this had happened numerous times to the child.

Deb stated she did not recall knowing about a spoon incident or any concerns with the frequency of diaper changes for any child. Patti also did not recall any concerns about the frequency of diapering activity or problems with this. Patti stated the center did have more age appropriate plastic (not disposable) utensils for the children in the twos/threes room, however, due to staff and children repeated throwing these away by accident, there are few left so they have typically resorted to using the plastic disposable adult sized spoons again. She brought in a few left over preschool sized utensils which did appear to be more appropriate and safe.

Patti pulled incident reports from a child's file regarding the elbow injury as well as the spoon incident. Copies of those incident reports were provided to the licensing consultant. Both incidents occurred with a child in the twos/threes room.

The incident report for the elbow injury is dated 4/7/14 with time of incident 11:20. The report indicates the staff involved was Sally. The incident report states: "While standing up from table, holding (child) hands, (child) turned and started to cry holding the left arm. We checked it over and (child) won't move it. Called parents." Deb Gustafson signed as the director signature on the form. The incident report is signed by the child's mother on the same date as the incident.

The incident report for the spoon incident is dated 4/16/14 with time of incident 11:45. The report indicates staff involved were "twos and threes staff". The report states: "During lunch (child) was using a plastic spoon and during the meal we noticed that a small piece of the spoon was missing. We are not sure if she swallowed it. 'Action Taken' We tried to get (child) to spit out whatever was in (child's) mouth. (Child) refused and would not open mouth. We will not have (child) use that type of silverware again." Patti Jones signed as the director signature on the form. The incident report is signed by the child's mother on the same date as the incident.

Deb listed the three staff who work in the twos/threes room. Deb stated staff Sally is on vacation and not present at the center this week. Deb stated staff Debbie is the lead staff in this room, but she is gone for the day.

Staff Renee stated she works in the twos/threes room and knew about the elbow incident because she was present at the time it occurred. She stated she did not see it happen. She stated what she knew was from what staff Sally told her. She stated staff Sally was changing the diaper and when finished, was helping the child up to a standing position (to pull up the child's pants) by holding the child's hands. This is when the injury reportedly happened. Renee stated since the incident, the staff have been more careful with children when changing diapers making sure to use two hands to lift the child under the arms instead of by the child's hands in order to avoid future injuries.

Renee stated she was there when the spoon incident occurred also, and she had direct knowledge of this. She stated the child must have bitten too hard on the plastic disposable spoon, and by the time the staff got to her she had swallowed the small piece. She stated the staff were certain that the child did swallow the small piece. She stated ever since that time they had given that child only the preschool sized plastic (non disposable type) spoons.

Renee stated it is the center's policy to change/check a child's diaper at least every two hours. She stated the staff would check this child's diaper more frequently because this child was bigger for the age (just turned two) and would have more of a tendency to wet through the diaper. The child was not potty training. Renee stated it was probably once a week that they would have to change the child's clothing because of wetting through the diaper. Renee stated they would never tell the parent the child spilled milk on the clothing when it was urine as the reason for the clothing change. Renee stated the parent never complained to her personally about diaper changes or redness or rash for the child, and she was not aware of any concerns reported to other staff.

Deb and Patti stated the staff do complete daily notes to give to the parents for the children in this room who are still in diapers, however, the center does not keep a copy of these forms.

Deb and Patti stated they had not had any concerns for any of the staff in this room.

Deb stated the child no longer attends the center, and she recalled having a conversation with the parents about why they were leaving the center when they indicated they would be going elsewhere. Deb stated at that time the parents indicated nothing specific of concern or any complaints. Patti described the parents as "quiet" and stated the parents seemed nonchalant about everything even the elbow incident.

Special Notes and Action Required:

The center admits the elbow was dislocated during the diaper changing activity at the center. The incident, though unfortunate, appears to be accidental in nature. The staff have indicated changing their own behavior when it comes to properly supporting/lifting a child in order to prevent further similar incidents.

There is not definitive evidence indicating that staff have failed to diaper a child as frequently as needed or outside of the center's policy to check the diaper every two hours. Staff indicated they would typically check this child's diaper even more frequently.

The incident with the plastic spoon is concerning though it may not have been a foreseeable concern. It is determined that this type of utensil is not age appropriate, at the very least, for this group of children. Before the licensing consultant had left the building, the on site supervisor had left to purchase preschool/toddler sized eating utensils specifically designed for toddlers to supply the room. The center director stated the center would work out the logistics of using the utensils to ensure they are not thrown away, thus, always available for use and would no longer use the disposable type spoons/utensils in this room.

At this time there is no other action required by the center related to this report.

Heidi Hungate, MSW
DHS Child Care Licensing Consultant

Consultant's Signature:

Date:

06/05/2014

Handwritten signature of Heidi L. Hungate in cursive script.