

Ms. York states she was present at the center when it happened. She states it was around noon and the witness was at the center and was very upset. Ms. York asked her what happened and she replied that a teacher grabbed a child and the other teacher did not do anything about it.

I interviewed Steph, the staff member in question. Steph states they are in the process of transitioning the child from her room to the Teddy Bear room and he does not transition well. The previous day he did okay. On the day of the incident she took the child into the Teddy Bear room and she was getting ready to leave for her break and walked back to her room. She states she heard the child "freak" out. The child threw himself on the floor and was hitting and kicking the child next to him. He then took off his shoes and threw them. The staff member in the Teddy Bear room, Najah, said she did not think this was going to work. Steph states she put her hand between the child's legs and scooped him up so that he was in a sitting position in her arms. She states he then kicked and threw himself forward in her arms so that he was lying forward with his stomach across her arms.

Steph states she took him back to the Monkey room and sat with him in the quiet corner. She told him to calm down and to take a deep breath because it was not good for him to get that worked up. She states he took a couple deep breaths and calmed down. She then sat him down at the table to eat.

She reports she then left for break and she heard a lady yelling at Najah in the Teddy Bear room. She Steph walked by the lady pointed at her and said, "That is the lady right there." Steph states that Najah told her the lady accused her of slamming the child down. Steph states that never happened. She picked the child up to take him back to her room and calmed the child down, which is all that happened. Steph states if she saw the child throw himself forward she can understand why the lady misunderstood.

I interviewed Najah. Najah states they were in the process of transitioning the child to her room, but the child does not transition well and he does not want to leave Steph. The child sat at the table for lunch and Steph walked back to her room. The child started throwing a fit immediately. He was screaming and refusing to sit down. He slid out of his chair to the floor and was kicking his feet and he took off his shoes. Najah states she was trying to rub his arms and talk with him to calm him down. She reports he quieted down for a second and then became louder and started hitting the child next to him.

Najah states she asked Steph if she had another child to switch over to her room so she could take the child back to her room. Steph came in the room with the other children from her room to take the child back. She states the child stood up and took Steph's hand to walk with her and then he let go and fell to the floor kicking and screaming. He threw his shoe at a child and hit the child in the face. He threw his second shoe across the table. Najah states that Steph scooped the child up by grabbing him between the legs and lifting him up in her arms. She states the child threw himself forward in her arms and Steph carried him back to her room.

Najah states that Steph was never forceful. She was gentle. Najah states a parent was standing near the kitchen when all of this happened and witnessed the entire thing. She states that is why she does not understand why the witness said Steph grabbed and slammed the child because that is not what happened. Najah states the parent was yelling at her for not doing anything when the other staff member forcibly picked the child up and threw him down. Najah states she did not even have a chance to respond and tell the parent that is not what happened. There was no slamming the child down, she only scooped him up and he threw himself forward in her arms.

Najah states that the parent brought Ms. York and Ms. Kopsa back to the room and pointed toward Steph. She and Steph were interviewed by Jenny Smith and they wrote up statements about what happened.

Ms. Smith states she has no evidence that the incident happened as described by the witness. Steph and Najah were interviewed right away and separately and gave the same account.

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 NOT VIOLATED. There is no evidence to support this allegation. Interviews with staff members did not support the allegation.

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:

05/28/2014