

wood chip barrier) expressing foot pain. Taylor G reported she next observed the staff “grab” two children who were riding tricycles on the grass and telling them to “sit down”. Taylor G stated the children sat down, did not cry, and did not report any injuries. Taylor G reported she then observed the staff try to grab a third child who had taken a toy away from another child on the playground. Taylor G reported the staff who was sitting down was waving his/her arms to try and grab the child but couldn’t reach him/her. Taylor G stated she next observed the staff “grab” a fourth child by the arm for not listening to her directives. Taylor G reported the staff was “pulling” the child’s arm in an effort to get the child to sit down next to her/him. Taylor G described the staff pulling on the child’s arm in a “tug of war” manner. Taylor G reported the fourth child had observable red marks and the following day a bruise. Taylor G denied intervening while making her observations. Taylor G also denied seeking help or reporting the incidents to management until after outdoor play.

Ms. O’Regan and Ms. Schwerin reported talking with the staff who grabbed at the children on 10/14/2004. Ms. Schwerin reported the staff told her that he/she had no idea why someone would say he/she grabbed a child and left an injury. Ms. Schwerin reported the staff acknowledged he/she may have taken the child’s wrist in his/her hand. Ms. Schwerin reported the staff indicated he/she does hold children’s hands by putting his/her finger and thumb together so that the child’s hand can still freely move. Ms. Schwerin stated the staff reported he/she would never do anything to hurt a child. Ms. Schwerin reported the staff told her that as a means of positive redirection he/she will get down on the child’s level and talk with him/her. Ms. Schwerin reported the staff also told her that he/she will put her fingers under the child’s chin and raise the child’s face up to look at him/her.

During Ms. Schwerin and Ms. O’Regan’s interview with the staff, they observed the staff was using a cane. Ms. Schwerin indicated the staff reported he/she hurt his/her foot a month ago when a toddler jumped on his/her foot. Ms. Schwerin reported the staff indicated she told director Laura Cook (director of KinderCare #292 who is currently on maternity leave) and on-site supervisor Ms. O’Regan about this accident. Ms. O’Regan denied this had ever been reported to her.

It is important to note, the staff involved in the above incident is no longer working at KinderCare #292.

Special Notes and Action Required:

Ms. Schwerin and Ms. O’Regan reported they will review with all staff mandatory reporting requirements. Ms. Schwerin and Ms. O’Regan also stated they will talk with all staff about the need to immediately intervene if they believe (see or hear) a staff is harming a child in order to help keep the child safe as well as to immediately inform someone on the management team.

Based upon the above, no further response is required.

If you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 319-892-6827; email alyons@dhs.state.ia.us <<mailto:alyons@dhs.state.ia.us>>) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If I have failed to provide for you any information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

Consultant's Signature:

Date:

10/23/2014

