

**Notice of Findings**

**Notice To:** Lyndee Christopherson - Director

**Facility Name:** John Paul II Catholic Preschool

**Owner:**

**Site Address:** 1000 Butler Spaeth Road

**City/State/Zip:** Gillette, WY 82716

The Department of Family Services has completed the investigation regarding alleged violation(s) of the Wyoming Child Care Rules received on 05/06/2025, and investigated by Irene Maurer.

A statement of childcare allegation, CPL-5922, was provided on 05/09/2025.

The finding is listed below for each individual alleged violation of the Wyoming Child Care Licensing Rules:

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1. Finding: Non-Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements  
Section 20. Emergency Safety Intervention.

(a) An emergency safety intervention is allowable only when there is an APPROVED Variance Request (with specific conditions as listed below (d) – (h)) to address unanticipated child behavior that places the child or others at serious threat of violence or injury (harm to self or others) if no intervention occurs.

Allegation: It has been self reported that on multiple occasions in the previous 6 months, JH physically restrained a child without an approved variance, appropriate training and/or an IEP for the child in place.

Explanation of Findings: During this investigation and through interviews conducted, it was established that on multiple occasions in the previous 6 months, staff member JH physically restrained a child without an approved variance, appropriate training and/or an IEP for the child in place. It has been found that this occurred on multiple occasions at nap time, when a child was restrained in a nap map, and during a time of challenging behaviors when a child was placed in a bear hug restraint.

Action Required: Child Care Licensing has noted that the facility has terminated the staff member's employment. Please complete a detailed corrective action plan which must include what led up to the restraint of a child in care and how the director will ensure it will not occur again. The director and all facility staff will obtain at least 4 hours of training in the areas of managing challenging behaviors, appropriate handling of children, reporting concerns of abuse or neglect, crucial conversations, having difficult conversations with peers, or any other approved area by 08/30/2025. This

training must include a hands on/in person component. This training may be conducted by the PLC, the DFS technical assistance coordinator, WYECBC, or another approved entity. This training may count towards the elective requirements for the 2024-2026 biennium, if approval is obtained through STARS.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 06/12/2025

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 08/30/2025

Compliance Achieved Date:

## 2. Finding: Non-Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements

Section 6. Discipline and Guidance.

(d) The following behavior shall be prohibited in all child care settings:

(vi) Any form of confining a child's movement or restraining a child as a means of punishment; and

Allegation: It has been self reported that on one or more occasions in the last 30 days, JH restrained a child by zipping them in a "mat" and "trapping" them so they couldn't move.

Explanation of Findings: During this investigation and through interviews conducted, it was established that on at least one occasion in the last 30 days, staff member JH restrained a child by wrapping them in a nap mat and held the child to the ground to attempt to force the child to take a nap. It has been found that staff member JH held one end of the nap mat closed so that the child was trapped.

Action Required: Child Care Licensing has noted that the facility has terminated the staff member's employment. Immediately discontinue the use of holding children in any way that restricts movement. Please complete a detailed corrective action plan which must include what led up to the restraint of a child in care and how the director will ensure it will not occur again. The director and all facility staff will obtain at least 4 hours of training in the areas of managing challenging behaviors, appropriate handling of children, reporting concerns of abuse or neglect, crucial conversations, having difficult conversations with peers, or any other approved area by 08/30/2025. This training must include a hands on/in person component. This training may be conducted by the PLC, the DFS technical assistance coordinator, WYECBC, or another approved entity. This training may count towards the elective requirements for the 2024-2026 biennium, if approval is obtained through STARS.

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Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 08/30/2025

Compliance Achieved Date:

## 3. Finding: Non-Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements

Section 14. Health and Safety Requirements.

(y) Children shall be provided opportunity for, but shall not be required, to sleep and children shall have their own separate cots, pads, and bedding; and

Allegation: It has been self reported that on one or more occasions in the last 3 months, JH attempted to force a child to sleep by restraining and forceful rocking of the child.

Explanation of Findings: During this investigation and through interviews conducted, it

was established that on multiple occasions in the last 3 months, staff member JH forced a child to sleep by wrapping them in a nap mat and forcefully rocking the child and also wrapping a child in a nap mat while staff member JH held the end of the nap mat closed.

Action Required: Child Care Licensing has noted that the facility has terminated the staff member's employment. Please complete a detailed corrective action plan which must include what led up to forcing a child to sleep and how the director will ensure it will not occur again. The director and all facility staff will obtain at least 4 hours of training in the areas of managing challenging behaviors, appropriate handling of children, reporting concerns of abuse or neglect, crucial conversations, having difficult conversations with peers, or any other approved area by 08/30/2025. This training must include a hands on/in person component. This training may be conducted by the PLC, the DFS technical assistance coordinator, WYECBC, or another approved entity. This training may count towards the elective requirements for the 2024-2026 biennium, if approval is obtained through STARS.

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#### 4. Finding: Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements  
Section 16. Outdoor Play Space.

(c) This space shall be used at least one (1) time per day per group of children for at least 30 minutes when weather and environmental conditions do not pose a significant health or safety risk. A schedule for outdoor play shall be posted in a prominent place in the facility.

Allegation: It has been self reported that on or around April 29, 2025, JH withheld outdoor play time as a form of punishment.

Explanation of Findings: There is not enough evidence to support a finding of non-compliance at this time.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date:

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date:

Compliance Achieved Date:

#### 5. Finding: Non-Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements  
Section 6. Discipline and Guidance.

(d) The following behavior shall be prohibited in all child care settings:

(vi) Any form of confining a child's movement or restraining a child as a means of punishment; and

Allegation: It has been self reported that on one or more occasion in the last 30 days, JH covered a child's mouth as a form of discipline or guidance.

Explanation of Findings: During this investigation and through interviews conducted, it was established that on one or more occasions in the last 30 days, JH covered a child's mouth attempting to calm and stop the child from crying during naptime.

Action Required: Child Care Licensing has noted that the facility has terminated the

staff member's employment. Immediately discontinue the use of holding children in any way that restricts movement. Please complete a detailed corrective action plan which must include what led up to the restraint of a child in care and how the director will ensure it will not occur again. The director and all facility staff will obtain at least 4 hours of training in the areas of managing challenging behaviors, appropriate handling of children, reporting concerns of abuse or neglect, crucial conversations, having difficult conversations with peers, or any other approved area by 08/30/2025. This training must include a hands on/in person component. This training may be conducted by the PLC, the DFS technical assistance coordinator, WYECBC, or another approved entity. This training may count towards the elective requirements for the 2024-2026 biennium, if approval is obtained through STARS.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 06/12/2025

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 08/30/2025

Compliance Achieved Date:

## 6. Finding: Non-Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements

Section 6. Discipline and Guidance.

(d) The following behavior shall be prohibited in all child care settings:

(iv) Any form of humiliation including threats of physical punishment;

Allegation: It has been self reported that on one or more occasions in the last 30 days, JH threatened a child in care with physical punishments.

Explanation of Findings: During this investigation and through interviews conducted, it was established that on multiple occasions in the last 30 days, staff member JH threatened a child in care by saying things such as "I'll tell papa and he'll spank you".

Action Required: Child Care Licensing has noted that the facility has terminated the staff member's employment. Please complete a detailed corrective action plan which must include what led up to threatening a child as a form of discipline and how the director will ensure it will not occur again. The director and all facility staff will obtain at least 4 hours of training in the areas of managing challenging behaviors, appropriate handling of children, reporting concerns of abuse or neglect, crucial conversations, having difficult conversations with peers, or any other approved area by 08/30/2025. This training must include a hands on/in person component. This training may be conducted by the PLC, the DFS technical assistance coordinator, WYECBC, or another approved entity. This training may count towards the elective requirements for the 2024-2026 biennium, if approval is obtained through STARS.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 06/12/2025

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 08/30/2025

Compliance Achieved Date:

## 7. Finding: Non-Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements

Section 6. Discipline and Guidance.

(d) The following behavior shall be prohibited in all child care settings:

(iii) Inappropriate use of language, including but not limited to profanity, name-calling, derogatory or demeaning terminology or screaming related to disciplinary purposes;

Allegation: It has been self reported on one or more occasions in the last 30 days, JH

yelled and/or screamed at a child as a form of discipline.

Explanation of Findings: During this investigation and through interviews conducted, it was established that on multiple occasions in the last 30 days, staff member JH would yell things at children such as "I have told you this already", "How many time do I have to tell you", "Sit down".

Action Required: Child Care Licensing has noted that the facility has terminated the staff member's employment. Please complete a detailed corrective action plan which must include what led up to yelling at a child as a form of discipline and how the director will ensure it will not occur again. The director and all facility staff will obtain at least 4 hours of training in the areas of managing challenging behaviors, appropriate handling of children, reporting concerns of abuse or neglect, crucial conversations, having difficult conversations with peers, or any other approved area by 08/30/2025. This training must include a hands on/in person component. This training may be conducted by the PLC, the DFS technical assistance coordinator, WYECBC, or another approved entity. This training may count towards the elective requirements for the 2024-2026 biennium, if approval is obtained through STARS.

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Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 08/30/2025

Compliance Achieved Date:

## 8. Finding: Non-Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements

Section 6. Discipline and Guidance.

(d) The following behavior shall be prohibited in all child care settings:

(ii) Rough handling of children, including but not limited to hitting, spanking, beating, shaking, pinching, pushing or other measures that could produce physical pain;

Allegation: It has been self reported that in the month of March 2025, JH roughly handled a child by picking them up and carrying them by the front/chest of their coat.

Explanation of Findings: During this investigation and through interviews conducted, it was established that on multiple occasions in the month of March 2025, staff member JH roughly handled a child by picking them up and carrying them by the front/chest of their coat during recess or during line up time.

Action Required: Child Care Licensing has noted that the facility has terminated the staff member's employment. Please complete a detailed corrective action plan which must include what led up to rough handling children and how the director will ensure it will not occur again. The director and all facility staff will obtain at least 4 hours of training in the areas of managing challenging behaviors, appropriate handling of children, reporting concerns of abuse or neglect, crucial conversations, having difficult conversations with peers, or any other approved area by 08/30/2025. This training must include a hands on/in person component. This training may be conducted by the PLC, the DFS technical assistance coordinator, WYECBC, or another approved entity. This training may count towards the elective requirements for the 2024-2026 biennium, if approval is obtained through STARS.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 06/12/2025

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 08/30/2025

Compliance Achieved Date:

## 9. Finding: Non-Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements  
Section 6. Discipline and Guidance.

(d) The following behavior shall be prohibited in all child care settings:

(ii) Rough handling of children, including but not limited to hitting, spanking, beating, shaking, pinching, pushing or other measures that could produce physical pain;

Allegation: It has been self reported that on one or more occasions in the last 3 months, JH roughly handled children by grabbing and/or yanking them by the arms.

Explanation of Findings: During this investigation and through interviews conducted, it was established that on multiple occasions in the last 3 months, staff member JH roughly handled children by grabbing and yanking them by the arms during line up time.

Action Required: Child Care Licensing has noted that the facility has terminated the staff member's employment. Please complete a detailed corrective action plan which must include what led up to rough handling children and how the director will ensure it will not occur again. The director and all facility staff will obtain at least 4 hours of training in the areas of managing challenging behaviors, appropriate handling of children, reporting concerns of abuse or neglect, crucial conversations, having difficult conversations with peers, or any other approved area by 08/30/2025. This training must include a hands on/in person component. This training may be conducted by the PLC, the DFS technical assistance coordinator, WYECBC, or another approved entity. This training may count towards the elective requirements for the 2024-2026 biennium, if approval is obtained through STARS.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 06/12/2025

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 08/30/2025

Compliance Achieved Date:

#### 10. Finding: Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements  
Section 6. Discipline and Guidance.

(d) The following behavior shall be prohibited in all child care settings:

(iii) Inappropriate use of language, including but not limited to profanity, name-calling, derogatory or demeaning terminology or screaming related to disciplinary purposes;

Allegation: It has been self reported that on one or more occasions in the last 30 days, JH used inappropriate language in front of children, including but not limited to calling a child a "little a\*\*hole".

Explanation of Findings: There is not enough evidence to support a finding of non-compliance at this time.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date:

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date:

Compliance Achieved Date:

#### 11. Finding: Compliant

Regulation: Chapter 4. General Requirements  
Section 11. Reports.

(c) All staff are required to report cases of suspected child abuse or neglect. An owner, director or their staff shall report immediately to the local Department office and/or

local law enforcement any circumstances indicating that a child in care may have been subjected to abuse or neglect by a person inside or outside of a program.

Allegation: On multiple occasions in the last 6 months, staff members and/or administrators of the facility did not report suspected abuse of a child in care.

Explanation of Findings: There is not enough evidence to support a finding of non-compliance at this time.

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Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

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**The Department requests your cooperation in ensuring compliance is met. In the absence of cooperation, the Department may take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the safety of children.**

**The Department's information may be shared with the authorized individuals or agencies, which include, but are not limited to, the Attorney General, County Attorney, and law enforcement.**

If you disagree with the Department's finding of non-compliance for a violation, you may request an Administrative hearing within (10) days of your receipt of this letter (W.S. 14-4-108). Administrative hearing procedures are included in the Department of Family Services' **Wyoming Child Care Licensing Rules, Chapter 3, Section 5: Contested Case Hearing Rules**, and based upon the above statute. If you have questions, or need a copy of the Rules, you may contact the Department of Family Services Field office in the county where you live.

Licenser: Irene Maurer  
Address: 551 Running W Drive  
City/State/Zip: Gillette WY 82718  
Phone: 307-687-5211  
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Licenser Supervisor: Michelle Lala  
Address: 1510 East Pershing Blvd  
City/State/Zip: Cheyenne WY 82001  
Phone: 307-777-5151  
Email: Michelle.Tucker1@wyo.gov

Signature:   
Irene Maurer

Date: 5/29/25

CC: