

Notice of Findings

Notice To: Tara E Johnson - Director
Facility Name: The Backyard Child Care Center, LLC
Owner: Tara Johnson
Site Address: 515 E. Carlson St. Unit #99
City/State/Zip: Cheyenne, WY 82009

The Department of Family Services has completed the investigation regarding alleged violation(s) of the Wyoming Child Care Rules received on 02/12/2026, and investigated by Kathy Geringer.

A statement of childcare allegation, CPL-6063, was provided on 02/20/2026.

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

1. 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: Director Ms. Tara Johnson called Child Care Licensing the afternoon of 2/12/26 to report that staff member A.A. had picked up a child in a one year old classroom by the wrist. The child was in pain after the incident.

Explanation of Findings: It has been found through interviews and evidence obtained over the course of this investigation, as well as being self reported by the Director of the facility, that on the afternoon of February 12, 2026, staff member A.A. picked up a one year old child by the wrist, resulting in nursemaid's elbow, which caused the child pain at the time of the incident.

Action Required: It has been acknowledged by Child Care Licensing that staff member A.A. has been terminated from employment at the facility immediately following the incident. Should the facility wish to re-employ AA at any point in the future, a new Wyoming Central Registry with eligible results must be obtained (as well as meeting all other new hire requirements). The Director of the facility shall complete a Corrective Action Plan detailing why this incident happened and how she will ensure that it does not happen in the future. Please include any training provided to staff on appropriate handling of children and the facility policy regarding the safe handling of children.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 04/24/2026

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 04/24/2026

Compliance Achieved Date:

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: Kathy Geringer
Address: 1556 Progress Court
City/State/Zip: Wheatland WY 82201
Phone: 307-322-3790
Email: Kathy.Geringer@wyo.gov

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Geringer', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kathy Geringer

Date: 03/25/2026

CC:

Tara Johnson - Owner
thebackyardccc@yahoo.com