

Notice of Findings

Notice To: Georgeanne Johnson - Director
Facility Name: MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF CHEYENNE
Owner: Erin Barkley, Montessori School of Cheyenne Board
Site Address: 5926 Townsend Place
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 10/18/2024, and investigated by Kathy Geringer.

A statement of childcare allegation, CPL-5796, was provided on 10/24/2024.

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: An allegation has been received that in the month of August a child believed to be from the T1 class was handled roughly in the hallway when he could not put his shoe on fast enough for the staff. The staff who sounded frustrated grabbed boy's leg and began forcefully trying to push shoes on to the child's feet. The child was frightened and began crying. The staff then jerked the child up by one arm and took him outside by one arm with only one shoe on. The same staff is alleged to on the week of 10/14-10/18, have pulled a child back the back of the shirt and yell in his face. This incident is reported to have occurred on the toddler playground.

Explanation of Findings: As a result of investigation interviews, it has been determined that staff S.K. has handled children roughly as a means to move them to a different area/location, and or to removed them from a situation, both inside and outside of the facility. Rough handling has also been determined to occur when children are not wanting to have some of their daily needs met by the same staff. Although staff S.K. is no longer working in the facility since the end of October 2024, a finding of non-compliance has been made on this allegation.

Action Required: Please submit Compliance and a Corrective Action Plan the contents of which are attached on a document entitled, "Montessori Compliance due / CAP on

reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect".

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 12/18/2024

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 12/18/2024

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
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Licenser Supervisor: Michelle Lala
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City/State/Zip: Cheyenne WY 82001
Phone: 307-777-5151
Email: Michelle.Tucker1@wyo.gov

Signature: _____



Kathy Geringer

Date: _____

11/27/24

CC:

Eli Carpenter - Board President
boardmsc@googlegroups.com

Montessori Compliance due / CAP on reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect

For compliance, submit the outline of a training given to staff on the process of reporting suspected abuse and or neglect of a child to the WY Department of Family Services, (DFS) or local law enforcement.

The training is to include the following information:

- (a) Provide the Licensing rule Chapter 4, Section 11, (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.”
- (b) All child care staff are mandated reporters, this is required by law.
- (c) It is not the responsibility of the facility staff or administration to determine if a the situation meets the criteria of abuse or neglect prior to reporting. That determination will be made by DFS or Law Enforcement.
- (d) Reports are to be made immediately.
- (e) Provide the contact information to the local DFS Office and Law Enforcement Office.
- (f) Provide staff with the Facility’s Licensor’s contact information. Staff are to feel free to contact the Licensor any time they have any questions or concerns.

Have each staff member complete an evaluation form following the training stating what they have learned about reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect or reporting of concerns. The statements are to be signed and dated by each staff and submitted to the Licensor as part of the CAP. If you wish to have this training approved by STARS for credit, you may go through that process. The compliance is due by 12/18/24.

Please submit a Corrective Action Plan, (CAP):

Develop a procedure to document reported concerns from staff addressing Child Care Licensing Rule Violations. The procedure also must document actions that are taken to follow-up on concerns and any necessary corrections that were made.

Also include how staff will be advised of the new procedure. The CAP is due by 12/18/24.