

Notice of Findings

Notice To: JULIE BELTON - Director

Facility Name: The REAL Center

Owner:

Site Address: 125 S. Cole St

City/State/Zip: Pinedale, WY 82941

The Department of Family Services has completed the investigation regarding alleged violation(s) of the Wyoming Child Care Rules received on 08/23/2024, and investigated by Kelli Dunne.

A statement of childcare allegation, CPL-5764, was provided on 08/27/2024.

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: It was reported that on one or more occasions in the last six months, the Director of the facility popped a child in the mouth as a form of punishment for biting another child in care.

Explanation of Findings: During this investigation and through interviews conducted, it has been found that on multiple occasions in the last 6 months, the Director of the facility, JB, has roughly handled multiple children in care, including pushing children in the mouth with her finger for biting and roughly grabbing children by the arms.

Action Required: The Director will develop and implement a comprehensive corrective action plan to correct the violation and ensure that this will not happen again. This plan shall include how the director will ensure the proper treatment & respect for all children. This plan shall also include details of the following components: 1). The Director shall review Chapter 4, Section 6 of the Wyoming Child Care Licensing Rules. A statement acknowledging that it has been done so needs to be signed, emailed to Licensor and retained in staff file within fourteen days. 2). The director shall complete 4 hours of training in the areas of appropriate discipline/guidance and appropriate handling of children. This training may be conducted by the PLC, the DFS technical assistance coordinator or another approved entity. This training must include at least 2

hours of hands on/in person training and be completed within sixty days. 3). Compliance monitoring visits will be conducted on a regular basis for a period of no less than (60) days.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 09/19/2024

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date: 11/05/2024

Compliance Achieved Date:

2. Finding: 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 was reported that on one or more occasions in the last six months, the Director of the facility put her hand over the mouth of a child to stop the child from crying.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due Date:

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:

Compliance Due Date:

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.

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Signature:


Kelli Dunne

Date:



CC: