

Notice of Findings

Notice To: Francie N Gregory - Director
Facility Name: Weston County Childrens Center
Owner:
Site Address: 104 Stampede
City/State/Zip: Newcastle, WY 82701

The Department of Family Services has completed the investigation regarding alleged violation(s) of the Wyoming Child Care Rules received on 03/27/2026, and investigated by Irene Maurer.

A statement of childcare allegation, CPL-6086, was provided on 03/31/2026.

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: It has been self-reported by the director of the facility that staff E.F. spanked a child in the cookie monster room on 3/19/26.

Explanation of Findings: Through interviews and evidence obtained over the course of this investigation, it has been found that on March 19, 2-26, during a 5 minute period of escalating frustration of a staff member, E.F., which included E.F. using massage techniques that the child stated they didn't like, pushing the child off of her lap, and repeatedly telling the child to stop crying and settle down, staff member E.F. spanked the child in the Cookie Monster room roughly on the bottom.

Action Required: The facility director, staff member E.F. and all staff members that work in the Cookie Monster room or with the child involved shall complete a minimum of 3 hours of training in the area of challenging behaviors and or appropriate de-escalation techniques. This training must be STARS approved and may be completed with the PLC; lauren.carlisle@uwyo.edu, the DFS technical assistance coach; penny.cannon@wyo.gov, WYECBC: jessicajaycox@gmail.com or another approved entity.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 04/23/2026

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date:
Compliance Due Date: 05/08/2026
Compliance Achieved Date:

2. Finding: 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 reported on 3/19/26 staff E.F. restricted a child's movements in the cookie monster room without an approved variance on file.

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:

3. Finding: Non-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: It has been reported that a child was roughly handled on 3/19/26 by a staff member of the facility and the facility director did not attempt to report this suspected abuse to Child Protective Services or the contact listed in the out of office email, which was received by the facility immediately upon emailing the licenser.

Explanation of Findings: Through interviews and evidence obtained over the course of this investigation, it has been found that on 3/19/26 a child was roughly handled by a staff member in the facility. The facility director sent an email to the Licenser and immediately received an out of office reply stating that the Licenser would not return until the following week. The facility Director made no additional efforts to report suspected abuse to Child Protective Services or the contact listed in the out of office email.

Action Required: The facility director shall complete the "2026 Recognizing and Reporting Suspect Child Abuse and Neglect (CCDBG Area #12)" on the thinkific website and submit a corrective action plan detailing how the facility will report rough handling differently in the future.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 04/23/2026
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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
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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: 4/9/26

CC:
Nick Trandahl - Board President
ntrandahl@gmail.com