

**Notice of Findings**

**Notice To:** JAN E LAWRENCE - Director

**Facility Name:** BASIC BEGINNINGS

**Owner:**

**Site Address:** 1474 NORTH 19TH ST

**City/State/Zip:** Laramie, WY 82072

The Department of Family Services has completed the investigation regarding alleged violation(s) of the Wyoming Child Care Rules received on 03/05/2025, and investigated by Danielle Farino.

A statement of childcare allegation, CPL-5874, was provided on 03/06/2025.

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 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 reported that on one or more occasions in the last 60 days, staff member AS has roughly handled children in the Hippos classroom, including grabbing them roughly by the arms and/or yanking them by the arms.

Explanation of Findings: Over the course of this investigation, which included more than 40 interviews of current and former staff members, and a review of evidence submitted, it has been found that on multiple occasions in the last 60 days, children were roughly handled by staff member AS when children were yanked and grabbed abruptly by their arms in the Hippos classroom. It has been found that this rough handling occurred as a result of frustration and challenging behaviors, including on one occasion in March of 2025, when a child was biting another child.

Action Required: -Prior to this finding being determined as noncompliant, the director had proactively required the staff members of the Hippo Classroom to take training to address any potential discipline and guidance concerns. This training included a facility orientation reviewing all rules and regulations of the facility, a Conscious Discipline training video, and a video that describes the effects of children being grabbed or yanked by the arm. Completion of these 3 training pieces shall be required as part of compliance, if not completed already. -Staff member AS shall complete 4 hours of

training in the area of self control and discipline, respectful interactions with children and/or handling challenging behaviors in a child care setting. This training may be taken online, through the DFS technical assistance coordinator Penny Cannon, the PLC or another approved entity. This training shall be completed by 06/01/2025. All training may count towards the facility's biennium training requirements if approved by STARS. -Staff member AS shall submit a written statement explaining her understanding of appropriate interactions with children and a statement that she will handle children appropriately at all times, including asking for help if she is feeling frustrated or overwhelmed. -Submit a corrective action plan outlining how you will ensure that rough handling will not occur in any classroom and how all required training shall be completed by 06/01/2025. Completion of training and statement from AS shall be submitted to licensing by 06/01/2025.

Corrective Action Plan Due Date: 06/01/2025

Corrective Action Plan Achieved Date: 05/13/2025

Compliance Due Date: 06/01/2025

Compliance Achieved Date: 05/13/2025

**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: Danielle Farino  
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Licenser Supervisor: Michelle Lala  
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Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Lala', written over a white background.

Michelle Lala for Danielle Farino

Date: 05/28/2025

CC: