

Early Learning and Childcare Facility Inspection Report

Type of Inspection:
Monitoring Inspection

Pursuant to section 21 of the *Early Childhood Services Act*, operators of licensed early learning and childcare facilities must post their most recent inspection report in a clearly visible and prominent place in the facility.

Name of operator Start Smart Family Learning Center Inc.	Licence Number 2010207	Inspection Date June 15, 2022
Facility Name Start Smart Family Learning Centre		Telephone Number (506) 363-3765
Address 20 617 Route Burtt's Corner NB E6L 2X3		
Name of Early Learning and Childcare Licensing Staff Joanne Voyer Page		Position Title Quality Assurance Monitor

Order for Compliance	Regulation	Date to be corrected	Date corrected
33(1) An operator of a licensed facility shall provide outdoor play area materials and equipment that are varied and in sufficient quantity for the number and ages of the children receiving services at the licensed facility.	33(1)	Jun 15, 2022	Jun 15, 2022
Comments: Please read comments below. There are toys and equipment located in the shed. These materials need to be placed in the outdoor play area.			
33(2) Stationary equipment in the outdoor play area shall be surrounded by a protective surfacing and installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.	33(2)	Jun 17, 2022	
Comments: Please read comments below			

<p>General Comments</p> <p>Upon arrival, QA made the Administrator aware of the visit.. Children were outside, so QA walked directly to outdoor play area.</p> <p>Administrative records were reviewed. Attendance is tracked, fire drills and outdoor checklist is being completed monthly. Appropriate child guidance was observed. The educators have a lovely rapport with the children. They were observed engaged and speaking to the children kindly, reading a story to them, singing with them etc. It is obvious the children feel very comfortable and safe around the educators.</p> <p>Centre has plans to refurbish outdoor playspace with the funding they received from EECD They have submitted plans to the district team. This is wonderful to have access to funding to make improvements to your outdoor play space. The operator is also required to submit an Application for change to our department and Public Health regarding the proposed changes. It will be determined if an inspection is required based on the changes indicated on the application. I provided a document to the Administrator today to provide some suggestions and ideas for developing a natural outdoor play space.</p> <p>In the meantime, the QA observed some concerns that must be addressed at this time.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The gate needs lowered and adjusted so that it easily latches. The other gate cannot be locked while the outdoor space is in use as per Office of the Fire Marshal. It can be locked when not in use. The Administrator indicated that they have been dealing with ongoing vandalism to the outdoor play space and to the gate. 2. The small little tykes climbing structure needs more protective surfacing as per manufacturer instructions or
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General Comments

follow CSA. Please remove this item until appropriate surfacing is in place. It is my understanding from the Administrator they will be adding mulch for the new dome structure they plan to purchase. Various types of surface to incorporate all kinds of play is recommended.

3. Nails are protruding from the 2 picnic tables. These need to be re-nailed and screws tightened as it is unsafe to use in this condition. Please repair and do not permit children to use. This is another item that has been vandalized.

4. I noticed 2 other little tyke structures stored on top of the wooden stage. If these are not in use, please remove from the play area.

A few additional recommendations to prepare the outdoor play area for children.

1. It is important for educators to plan daily and prepare the outdoor environment ahead. Sunscreen has been applied, children have access to their water bottles, sun hats, rubber boots, raingear etc. During my visit one child stated to the educator they were thirsty and another child mentioned they wanted their sweater because they were cold. The educator went inside and collected children's water bottles and sweater.

2. The outdoor classroom should be set up much the same as your indoor classroom - ready for the children to explore their surroundings. I observed some children wandering about and they appeared to be bored with nothing to play with. Please reference the Operator manual for ideas and guidance. Think about incorporating quiet inviting spaces for children to listen to stories, shaded areas so children can spend time outside even during the hottest part of the day. The sand hut has a gazebo but it was not made available to the children today. It was covered, and inaccessible. There was lots of shade from trees at the back of the fenced in play area but the umbrellas could be taken out of storage on hot sunny days. Children enjoyed listening to the Educator read a story outside today. It is my understanding from the Administrator that due to vandalism they cannot leave toys and equipment in the outdoor space. They must be kept in a locked storage shed all the time. Though it is evident there are plenty of toys, equipment and materials available, Educators still need to set up the outdoor classroom daily and ensure the outdoor kitchen and sand hut etc are equipped with the items required. Children need access to toys and equipment, the same as when indoors.

3. Keep children's water bottles stored in a cool place (out of the sun) and accessible to children at all times.

4. The chalk board also needs resurfaced and the water table could be emptied daily and new water added for children to enjoy especially on this hot day.

Children were observed washing hands before lunch, eating lunch, going down for a nap or playing quietly.

original signed by

Joanne Voye Page

Signature of Early Learning and Childcare Licensing Staff

June 15, 2022

Date

original signed by

Lisa Hill

Signature of Operator/Designate

June 15, 2022

Date