

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 Little Land Learning Centre Inc.	Licence Number 2018342	Inspection Date February 09, 2024	
Facility Name Little Land Learning Centre		Telephone Number (506) 458-5552	
Address 435 Brookside Drive Fredericton NB E3A 8V4			
Name of Early Learning and Childcare Licensing Staff Jennifer Godin		Position Title Quality Assurance Monitor	

Order for Compliance	Regulation	Date to be corrected	Date corrected
21 The daily activities of a licensed facility shall be purposely planned in advance and documented and shall respond to the capabilities, needs and interests of each child.	21	Feb 23, 2024	
Comments: Two educators were unable to provide evidence of daily planning at the time of the inspection. In order to provide quality childcare, the day-to-day activities of a licensed facility should be deliberately planned and documented to meet the abilities, needs and interests of each child. A reminder that programming should be flexible to integrate the interests of children, allow spontaneous activities, etc.			
21 The daily activities of a licensed facility shall be purposely planned in advance and documented and shall respond to the capabilities, needs and interests of each child and shall include (c) opportunities (iv) to explore the arts and sciences.	21(c)(iv)	Feb 23, 2024	
Comments: Not all classrooms were observed having a science/nature area. Please refer to pages 160-162 for ideas on how to incorporate science and nature into a classroom environment. Please ensure to keep in mind the developmental and age appropriateness of materials for each age group. Not all classrooms were observed having art materials that were readily accessible to the children. Please refer to pages 158-160 of the Operator Manual for ideas on how to incorporate different art material in the classroom environment. Please ensure to keep in mind the developmental and age appropriateness of materials for each age group.			
21 The daily activities of a licensed facility shall be purposely planned in advance and documented and shall respond to the capabilities, needs and interests of each child and shall include (c) opportunities (vii) to develop trusting, respectful and supportive relationships with educators and children.	21(c)(vii)	Feb 23, 2024	
Comments: Children are unable to develop trusting, respectful and supportive relationships with the educators as they are constantly being shuffled around to meet ratio. There is also a fairly high staff turn over rate and staff are often absent. Children being shuffled around was evident during today's monitoring inspection through observations of classroom attendance records.			
24(1) For the purposes of subsection 20(1) of the Act, the following records and documents shall be maintained on the premises of a licensed facility: (f) daily attendance records of the children on forms provided by the Minister.	24(1)(f)	Feb 09, 2024	Feb 09, 2024

Order for Compliance	Regulation	Date to be corrected	Date corrected
<p>Comments: Deficiency is now compliant</p> <p>The mandatory attendance record forms are being used but some did not accurately reflect the number of children present during today's inspection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventure Island had 7 children signed in, but only 5 were present. • Discovery Drive had 4 children signed in but 5 children present. • Baby Boulevard had 2 children present, but had 3 signed in. • Lullaby Lane had 6 children present but only 5 signed in. <p>All educators made the appropriate changes to their classroom attendance sheets when the issue was brought to their attention.</p>			
29 An operator of a licensed facility shall ensure that the traffic area and the outdoor walk-ways of the licensed facility are free from obstructions and hazards.	29	Feb 09, 2024	
<p>Comments: Observed play and construction materials that appear to have been randomly thrown/stacked on either side of storage room off of Baby Boulevard, at time of visit. Educator and infants from Baby Boulevard are exiting their classroom to go outside through the storage room door. Storage room must be cleaned out and organized in a safe manner to ensure safety of staff and children who are passing through.</p>			
30(3) An operator shall maintain the indoor play area of a licensed facility to ensure the safety of the children.	30(3)	Feb 09, 2024	
<p>Comments: Observed screws in the infant room that are sticking out of the wall from shelves that have been removed. These protruding screws pose a safety risk to infants and staff. Screws must be removed, or shelving unit reinstalled. This was noted on renewal inspection reports dated September 26, 2023, December 5, 2023, and January 16, 2024, and has yet to be addressed by management of the facility. This must be rectified immediately.</p> <p>Baby gate in Lullaby Lane still doesn't open or slide. Educators are still having to walk over the baby gate. This poses a safety risk to educators and children, as educators could fall/trip on the gate injuring a child in the process. This was noted on renewal inspection reports dated December 5, 2023, and January 16, 2024, and has yet to be addressed my management of the facility. Quality Assurance Monitor offered operator and administrator different options on what they can use as a baby gate in both infant rooms. This must be rectified immediately.</p>			
31(3) An operator shall maintain the outdoor play area of a licensed facility to ensure the safety of the children.	31(3)	Feb 09, 2024	
<p>Comments: Infant gate was unable to latch and properly close at time of inspection. Observed operator adding salt to gate area at time of inspection to try and get gate to close/latch properly.</p> <p>Area in and around shade structure/wooden deck was observed to be icy at time of visit. Please ensure area is properly sanded or salted for safety reasons.</p>			
32(1) An operator of a licensed facility shall provide indoor play area materials and equipment that are (b) arranged on low, open shelves and accessible to the children receiving services at the licensed facility,	32(1)(b)	Feb 23, 2024	
<p>Comments: There is a picture on a shelf in Adventure Island where mark making materials should be, but materials were not present at time of inspection. Quality Assurance Monitor observed mark making materials in a plastic drawer that was hard to open. Given that Quality Assurance Monitor had a hard time opening the drawer to get to the mark making materials, children would have an even harder time. Keeping mark making materials in this drawer is not having the material easily/readily available to the children to choose them freely.</p>			
39(2) A licensed facility shall have a separate locked storage space that is inaccessible to the children for each of the following: (a) toxic products, chemical products and cleaning supplies;	39(2)(a)	Feb 09, 2024	
<p>Comments: During naptime in Lullaby Lane, the bathroom door was observed to be open. Observed a cup labelled and filled with powdered "floor cleaner". All toxic products must be kept locked and out of the children's reach at all times.</p>			
40(1) An operator of a licensed facility shall ensure that personal belongings of a child receiving services at the licensed facility that are brought to the licensed facility, including combs, brushes, toothbrushes, towels, washcloths, bedding, pacifiers and soothers, are (c) stored separately for each child.	40(1)(c)	Feb 23, 2024	

Order for Compliance	Regulation	Date to be corrected	Date corrected
<p>Comments: Childrens personal belongings from Lullaby Lane were observed to be piled together on the floor in the nap room by the door.</p> <p>As discussed during renewal inspection dated December 5, 2023, children's belongings must be put on their hooks/in their baskets. If educators are having a difficult time ensuring the children's belongings are properly hung up in the back of the nap room, it is recommended that the hooks and shelving unit with their baskets be moved to the entrance of the nap room wall or on the wall inside the playroom near the entrance.</p>			
48(1) An operator of a licensed facility shall serve (c) drinking water throughout the day.	48(1)(c)	Feb 09, 2024	
<p>Comments: Child was observed crying and asking for a drink while children were outside playing. Educator was observed telling child that they would be going in soon and she could have a drink then. Children's water bottles should be brought outside while they are outside with them in case they get thirsty.</p>			
48(4) If an infant is receiving services at a licensed facility, the operator shall (d) ensure that each bottle is stored with a cover in the refrigerator.	48(4)(d)	Feb 09, 2024	
<p>Comments: Observed several infant bottles in Lullaby Lane that were stored on a shelf and at least one did not have a cover at time of inspection. Educator did bring bottles to the fridge when Quality Assurance Monitor pointed out the fact that bottles were on the shelf.</p>			

General Comments
<p>Children were just finishing up snack when I arrived for today's monitoring inspection. All children were excited to go play outside in the nice weather. While outside, all educators were observed interacting with children at time of inspection.</p> <p>During nap time, an educator was observed trying to get children to nap. When they noticed that certain children were not wanting to nap, she let them go quietly play in the block corner. She informed them that she would leave their mats out in case they changed their mind and wanted to rest. Observed another child from a different room, who normally doesn't nap, request a mat from their educator. Educator was observed getting a mat for said child.</p> <p>Children who were not napping were observed playing quietly around the classrooms. Children in Kindergarten Crossing were observed making bead bracelets with their educator at time of inspection.</p> <p>All educators were observed ensuring children washed their hands at appropriate times. Also observed educators washing their hands as need be as well.</p> <p>Facility's paper towel dispensers were empty at time of inspection, but educators were providing children with paper towel from a role when they were washing their hands. Paper towel/toilet paper/Kleenex order arrived during monitoring visit.</p> <p>Regarding programming - operators and educators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate that planning is a process that involves engaging the children and reflecting on the children's interests, passions, strengths, and abilities • ensure that short- and long-term plans are flexible and fluid, to accommodate emerging interests and unanticipated events • focus on individuals or small groups of children • emphasize a strength-based approach. <p>The daily program should be flexible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporate the interests of the children • allow for spontaneous activities • allow for changes in the weather • allow for a different pace when needed by either the children or educators • allow introduction of a new child into the program

General Comments

- accommodate the changing needs of an infant
- meet the developmental and inclusion support needs of all children

Daily programming is also beneficial for a relief staff who is covering for an educator while they are out. The relief staff should have the day's activities clearly laid out through the educator's daily programming. Observed a relief staff in Silly Street room who informed Quality Assurance Monitor that she will simply follow the programming calendar that was provided to her, but unfortunately Friday was left blank with nothing written in.

Quality Assurance Monitor was informed that educators are not being provided with required materials for programming when requested, and educators are not being provided time to program.

Observed educator having to use their cellphone's flashlight to fill out infant tracking sheets. It is recommended that Baby Boulevard have a lamp or string lights in the room that educator can use while children are sleeping.

Observed several infants in Lullaby Lane without inside shoes.

A reminder that open-ended play materials and equipment are to be in sufficient quantity and variety for the size of the group and representative of each of the following categories is present, for example:

- art materials including loose parts
- blocks and accessories
- language and literacy
- dramatic play
- music and movement
- large muscle (gross motor)
- manipulative and fine motor
- sand and water play
- puzzles and games
- materials that support mathematical learning
- materials that support learning in science and technology.

Should educators, administrator or operator wish to have additional curriculum/programming support, Quality Assurance Monitor can request support from district team on facility's behalf.

original signed by
Jennifer Godin

Signature of Early Learning and Childcare Licensing Staff

February 13, 2024

Date

original signed by
Nicolle LeBlanc

Signature of Operator/Designate

February 13, 2024

Date