

Post for 30  
Operating  
Days

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood  
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 302 Hartford, CT 06103  
Phone (800)-282-6063 Fax (860)-326-0552

**CHILD CARE CENTER/GROUP INSPECTION FORM**

INITIAL  UNANNOUNCED  FULL  PARTIAL  FOLLOW UP  LOCATION CHANGE  OTHER

Program Name: <u>The Smart start Preschool &amp; Learning Center</u>	License Number: <u>116844</u>	Date of Inspection: <u>12-19-22</u>	Time of Arrival: <u>9:17</u>
Address: <u>4133 Whitney Ave</u>	Expiration Date: <u>9-30-26</u>	Licensed Capacity: <u>60</u>	Under 3 Capacity: <u>24</u>
Town: <u>Hamden CT</u>	Telephone: <u>203-660-7158</u>	# of children present: <u>21</u>	# of staff present: <u>7</u>
Operator: <u>The Smart start Preschool &amp; Learning Center LLC</u>	Director: <u>Natasha Mendes</u>	Head Teacher: <u>Natasha Mendes</u>	
Email: <u>thesmart.startpreschool@gmail.com</u>	Summer Care: <u>open</u>		
Hours of Operation: <u>M-F 7:00 am - 6:00 pm</u>	Instruction Codes: N/A = Not applicable at this time √ = Compliance/No violation found O = Non-compliance/Violation found		
Ages Served: <u>6 weeks-12 years</u>	Endorsements: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Three (6wks - 36m) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preschool (3y - 5y) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Age (5y & up) <input type="checkbox"/> Night Care (6wks & up)		

**Licensure Procedures 19a-79-2a**

1. Local Health Date: 7-12-21

**Administration 19a-79-3a**

- 2. New Staff-Employee Orientation
- 3. Annual Staff Policy Training
- 4. Documentation of Behavior M. Tech Discussed w/Parents
- 5. Notification of Change
- 6. Policies: Discipline/Supervision/Child Protection/General Operating Policies/Personnel Policies/Closing Time Policy
- 7. Daily Attendance Records: Children/Staff

**Items Posted: Conspicuous/Accessible**

- 8. License
- 9. Current Fire Marshal Certificate Date: 7-20-21
- 10. OEC Complaint Procedure
- 11. Food Service Certificate Date: na
- 12. Menus
- 13. Emergency Plans
- 14. No Smoking Signs
- 15. Radon Test (Y/N) Date: 4-15-19 Results: 1.3
- 15a. Developmental Milestones

**Staffing 19a-79-4a**

- 16. Staff Health Records/TB Tests
- 17. Professional Development
- 18. Disciplinary Actions
- 18b. Background Checks
- 19. Designated Head Teacher/60%
- 20. Two Staff Present
- 21. Ratio: 1 Staff to 10 Children
- 22. Group Size: Maximum 20 Children
- 23. Designated Director/Training
- 24. CPR Certified Staff
- 25. First Aid Trained Staff

**Consultants**

26. Agreements/Contracts (Complete/Signed Annually)

	Contracts	Logs
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Social Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dietitian		

27. Logs/Visits Documented

**Swimming: (Y/N)**

28. Non-Swimmers Identified

**Swimming cont.**

- 29. Staff/Child Ratios
- 30. CPR Certified Staff (20 years of age)
- 31. Lifeguard Certified/Supervision

**Record Keeping 19a-79-5a**

- 32. Enrollment Information
- 33. Emergency Medical Permission
- 34. Authorized Released Permission
- 35. Field Trip Permission
- 36. Transportation Permission
- 37. Child Health Records/Immunizations/TB
- 38. Individual Care Plan (Signed by Parent/Staff)
- 39. Injury/Illness/Accident Reports

**Health and Safety 19a-79-6a**

- 40. Nutritious Snacks/Meals (Required Food Groups)
- 41. Proper Refrigeration
- 42. Kitchen Separated
- 43. Hand Washing Before Eating/Food Handling
- 44. First Aid Kit(s): Indoor/Outdoor/Field Trip/Inventory

**Physical Plant 19a-79-7a**

- 45. License Premise: Clean/Good Repair/Hazard Free
- 48. Sanitary Drinking Fountains/Disposable Cups  
Water Supply: Public/Well
- 49. Lead Water Test Date: 6-8-21  
Bacterial/Chemical Test (Y/N) Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 50. Walkways Maintained
- 51. Designated Staff Toilet/Sink
- 52. All Openings for Ventilation Screened
- 53. Windows Protected to Prevent Falls
- 54. Glass Protected to 36"
- 55. Overhead Doors Locking Devices/Spring Protectors
- 56. Exits/Hallways and Stairs Unobstructed
- 57. Individual Storage of Clothing/Bedding
- 58. Smoking Prohibited
- 59. Matches/Lighters Inaccessible
- 60. Electrical Safety: Outlets/Cords
- 61. Toileting Needs Met
- 62. Required Toilets/Sinks/Supplies
- 63. Potty Chairs: Nonporous/Emptied/Disinfected
- 64. Hand Washing After Toileting: Staff/Children
- 65. Ventilation in Toilet Room
- 66. Air Temp 65°, Thermometer Affixed

Signature of OEC Representative:

Jen Serra

Print name: Jen Serra

Written Corrective Action Plan Due to OEC by:

1-2-23

Signature of Person in Charge:

Natasha Mendes

Print name: Natasha Mendes

**CHILD CARE CENTER/GROUP INSPECTION FORM**

<p>Program Name: <u>The Smart Start Preschools Learning Center</u></p> <p><b>Physical Plant continued:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 67. Water Temperature 60°-115°</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 68. Portable Space Heaters</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 69. Walls/Ceilings/Floors/Rugs: Clean/Good Repair</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 70. Rugs Secure</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 71. Hot Water/Steam Pipes Protected</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 72. Working Phone on Each Level</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 73. Emergency Numbers Posted</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 74. Adequate Lighting: 50/30 Candle Feet</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75. Light Fixtures Shielded/Shatter Proof</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 76. Potentially Hazardous Substances Locked</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 77. Garbage/Rubbish Disposed Daily</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 78. Stairs Protected/Good Repair/Handrails</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 79. Pets: Maintained/Care Plan (Y/N) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80. Operable CO Detector on Each Level (Y/N) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 81. Program Space/Adequate Sq. Ft. Per Child</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 82. Equipment: Good Repair/Safe/Non-toxic</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 83. Cots Stored/Maintained/Adequate Number</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 84. Developmentally Appropriate Equipment/Materials</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 85. Hot Tubs/Spas/Saunas: Locked/Inaccessible (Y/N) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 86. No Weapons/No Facsimile of a Firearm on Premise</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 87. Outdoor Space Adequate Sq. Ft. Per Child</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 88. Impact Absorbing Material under Equipment</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 89. Playground Free from Hazards</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 90. Peeling Paint <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Taken (Y/N) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 91. Lead Management Plan (Y/N) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 92. Equipment Anchored/Safely Arranged</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 93. Outdoor Play Area Protected/Fenced</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 94. Drinking Water Available/Accessible</li> </ul> <p><b>Educational Requirements 19a-79-8a</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95. Written Plan for Daily Program Available to Parents/Staff</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 96. Activity Choices: Developmentally Appropriate/ Flexible/Meets Individual Needs Program Includes: Indoor/Outdoor, Gross/Fine Motor Skills, Snacks/Meals, Rest/Sleep/Quiet Time, Toileting and Clean Up</li> </ul> <p><b>Administration of Medications 19a-79-9a</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 97. Written Policies/Procedures</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 98. Training Outline on file</li> </ul> <p><b>Nonprescription Topical Medications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 99. Administration/Parent Permission/MAR</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100. Labeling/Storage</li> </ul> <p><b>Oral/Topical/Inhalant/Injectable Medications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 101. Med Trained Staff/Certificates</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 102. Authorized Prescriber/Parent Permission/MAR</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 103. Labeling/Storage</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 104. Unused/Expired Meds Returned/Disposed</li> </ul> <p><b>Self-Administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 105. Authorized Prescriber/Parent Permission/MAR</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 106. Labeling/Storage</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 107. Approved Petition For Special Med Authorization</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Distribution of Potassium Iodide</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 108. KI Pills Parent Permission/Storage</li> </ul>	<p>License Number: <u>16844</u></p> <p>Date of Inspection: <u>12-19-22</u></p> <p><b>Under Three Endorsement 19a-79-10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 109. Approved Endorsement</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 110. Ratio: 1 Staff to 4 Children</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 111. Group Size no Larger than 8</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 112. Physical Barriers/Groups of 8 (Indoors/Outdoors)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 113. Adequate Sinks in Program Space</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 114. Free Standing/Well-Constructed/Safe Cribs</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 115. Washable Cots</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 116. Chairs for Feeding/Stable/Safety Straps/Locking Tray</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 117. Dev. Appropriate Tables/Chairs/Equipment</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 118. Refrigerators and Food Prep Facilities</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 119. Sturdy/Safety Rail/Nonporous/Exclusive Use</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 120. Washed/Disinfected</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 121. Disposable Paper Sheets</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 122. Covered Waste Receptacle</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 123. Diaper Changing Policy Posted</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 124. Hand Washing Policy Posted</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 125. Individual Storage of Personal Items</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 126. Cribs/Cots Washed/Disinfected</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 127. Under 12 Months Placed on Back for Sleeping</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 128. Alternate Sleep Position/Equip-Medical Document <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 129. Crib/Bed Used for Infant Sleeping</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 130. Crib/Bed Free from Observable Hazards</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 131. Infant Toys Separate/Washed/Disinfected Daily</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 132. No Toys/Objects Less than 1 1/4" Diameter</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 133. Plastic Bags/Balloons/Styrofoam Objects Inaccessible</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 134. Health Consultant/Documentation of Visits</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 135. Infants Held for Bottles/Individual Attn/Tummy Time</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 136. Written Statement/Feeding Schedule from Parent</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 137. Unused Portions of Liquids Discarded</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 138. Clean Bottles/Disp. Bottles/Approved Bottle Washing</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 139. Food Served from Dish or Whole Jar Served</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 140. Bottles Individually Identified w/Child's Name</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor Play Space-Under Three:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 141. Play Space Fenced</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 142. Outdoor Equipment: Dev. Appropriate</li> </ul> <p><b>School Age Children Endorsement 19a-79-11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 143. Approved Endorsement</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 144. Activity choices appropriate</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 145. Ratio: 1 Staff to 10 Children</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 146. Group Size: Max. 20 Children</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 147. Education Consultant Appropriate</li> </ul> <p><b>Night Care Endorsement 19a-79-12 (10pm-5am)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 148. Approved Endorsement</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 149. Written Program Plan/Supervision</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 150. Staff Awake/Available</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 151. Cot/Crib/Bedding/Toiletries/Sleep Apparel</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 152. Individual Storage of Personal Items</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 153. Bedding/Sleeping Apparel Laundered Weekly</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring of Diabetes 19a-79-13 no child enrolled</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 154. Written Policies/Procedures</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 155. On Site Staff Trained in First Aid/Glucose Testing</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 156. Training Current/Documented</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 157. Supervision of Self Administration</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 158. Equipment/Supplies: Labeled/Inaccessible</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 159. Signed Agreement w/Parent Regarding Equipment</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160. Materials Discarded Appropriately</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 161. Authorized Prescriber/Parent Permission</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 162. Documentation of Test Results/Actions Taken</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 163. Daily Written Parent Notifications</li> </ul>	
<p>Signature of OEC Representative <u>Jennifer Serra</u></p>	<p>Written Corrective Action Plan Due to OEC by: <u>1-2-23</u></p>	<p>Signature of Person in Charge <u>Natasha Mendes</u></p>

Print Name: Jen Serra

Print Name: Natasha Mendes

## SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF INSPECTION

Name of Program/Provider: The Smart Start Preschool License # 16844 Date: 12.19.22  
and Learning Center

Observations/Corrections needed:

- #4 Observed no documentation of behavior management techniques discussed with parents in 31<sup>st</sup> out of 9 children's files
- #12 Observed menu's posted to not be current and no menu posted for 1 week in advance.
- #16 Observed 8 out of 8 staff files to be missing current adult medical statements. Observed 6 out of 8 staff files to be missing proof of negative TB results.
- #26 Observed Education Consultant agreement to be more than 1 year.
- #27 Observed ed consultant log to be more than 1 year
- #33 Observed 2 student files to be missing emergency permission
- #44 Observed indoor and outdoor first aid kits to be incomplete:  
 Missing current first aid book, within 5 years print
- #45 Observed laminate peeling off cabinet doors in preschool room. Laminate edges observed to be sharp, in a state of disrepair. Observed microwave in preschool room to have dried food and accumulated food splatters inside  
 Observed dangling clothes line<sup>cord</sup> in preschool room.
- #69 Observed porous wall board by large window in toddler 1  
 observed 2 missing floor tiles and 1 broken floor tile in toddler 1 room.

S = Substantiated    NS = Not Substantiated    P = Pending (if applicable)

Operators/providers are required by regulations and statutes to be in compliance at all times.

Signature: Jennifer Seve  
 (OEC Representative)  
 Print Name: Jen Seve

CORRECTIVE PLAN SHALL BE RETURNED TO

Signature: Natasha Mendes  
 (Person in Charge)  
 Print Name: Natasha Mendes

OEC BY: 1-2-23

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF INSPECTION

Name of Program/Provider: The Smart Start Preschool 3 Learning Center License # 16844 Date: 12-19-22

Observations/Corrections needed:

#69 cont:

Observed dusty ceiling vents throughout, including staff and children bathrooms.

#82 observed wall vent in preschool room to be showing signs of rust forming on vent fins, near sink.

#88 observed climbing structures on both playgrounds to not have adequate (minimum 8") shock absorbing material

#89 observed gutter down spouts to be laying on under 3 playground with sharp edged ends exposed. Observed dangling wires/cords along outside of building used as one boundary of under 3 playground. Observed broken wood table on under 3 playground

#99 observed 8 topical/creams to be missing parent permission

#100 observed one topical to not be labelled, observed one topical cream in classroom for child no longer enrolled

#131 NO bucket to collect soiled toys/objects observed in infant room  
NO means to separate soiled toys/objects

#132 observed toys/objects in under 3 room, smaller than 144 inch in toddler 1 and toddler 2 rolling carts. Observed small foam/rubber letters, beads, buttons, small counting bears, bugs accessible to children.

#133 Observed ziploc bags in toddler 1 and toddler 2 rolling carts accessible to children

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Signature: Jennifer Serra  
(OEC Representative)

Print Name: Jen Serra

CORRECTIVE PLAN SHALL BE RETURNED TO

Signature: Natasha Mendes  
(Person in Charge)

OEC BY: 1-2-23

Print Name: Natasha Mendes

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF INSPECTION

Name of Program/Provider: The Smart Start Preschool and Learning Center License # 16844 Date: 12.19.22

Observations/Corrections needed:

#136 observed 4 written feeding schedules for infants to not indicate if child consumes breast milk or formula

Discuss

Observed 1 child's file to be missing parent info/incomplete observed building along perimeter of playground to be showing signs of wear/deterioration

providers emergency plans do not meet federal requirements for Provider to update/revise plans to meet federal requirements.

provider submitted notification of change for new health consultant during visit

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Operators/providers are required by regulations and statutes to be in compliance at all times.

Signature: Jennifer Serra  
(OEC Representative)

Print Name: Jen Serra

CORRECTIVE PLAN SHALL BE RETURNED TO

Signature: Natasha Mendes  
(Person in Charge)

OEC BY: 1-2-23

Print Name: Natasha Mendes