

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
LEGAL DIVISION**

CONSENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF:

Child Care Center License # 70585
Read 2 Learn Stamford, LLC
The Learning Experience
Lynn Zazzali, Legal Representative

WHEREAS, Read 2 Learn Stamford, LLC of Wayne, New Jersey (“Operator”), has been issued license # 70585 to operate a Child Care Center named The Learning Experience, located at 421 Atlantic Street, CT 06901-3513 (“Facility”) by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (“Agency”) pursuant to General Statutes § 19a-80(b);

WHEREAS, Lynn Zazzali, is the Legal Representative of the Operator and therefore is duly authorized and empowered to act on behalf of the Operator and to bind the Operator to the terms and conditions contained in this Consent Order;

WHEREAS, the Operator admits and acknowledges that the violations contained in the draft Statement of Charges dated June 23, 2023, and revised on July 24, 2023 (attached hereto as Exhibit A) did occur;

WHEREAS, the foregoing acts referenced in the draft Statement of Charges constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to General Statutes § 19a-84, taken in conjunction with §§ 19a-79-1a et seq. of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies;

WHEREAS, the parties desire to fully resolve the matter without further proceeding;

WHEREAS, this Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter involved herein. All previous communications and agreements, with regard to the subject matter of this Consent Order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof;

WHEREAS, the parties agree that this Consent Order will supersede and replace the Consent Order executed by the parties on February 22, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Operator, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest the above admissions before a hearing officer and further agrees that this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if ordered after a full hearing pursuant to § 19a-84.

THEREFORE, pursuant to General Statutes § 4-177, the Operator hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. This Consent Order fully and completely resolves the admissions referenced above without any further proceeding.

2. This Consent Order may be considered as evidence of the above admitted violations in any subsequent proceeding or determination before the Agency in which (1) the Operator's compliance with this same Consent Order is at issue, or (2) the Operator's compliance with any state or federal statute and/or regulation is at issue.
3. The Operator waives its right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
4. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review under any form or in any forum, including any right of review under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 368a of the Statutes, or Regulations that exist at the time the agreement is executed or may become available in the future, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive the Operator of any other rights that it may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.
5. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement that may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn at any time prior to its being signed by the Commissioner of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood or his/her designee.
6. This Consent Order is a matter of public record and will be reported in accordance with state and federal laws and/or regulations and Agency policy. The Consent Order may be posted on the Agency's website.
7. Any extension of time or grace period granted by the Agency for any condition of this Consent Order shall not be a waiver or preclude the Agency's right to take action at a later time. The Agency shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
8. For a period of one year from the effective date of this Consent Order, the designated Director or his/her designee shall conduct in-person observations of each room in the Facility for at least 30 minutes per week to ensure that staff are acting in compliance with the Regulations and following the Facility's policies and procedures related to supervision, ratio, managing child behaviors, and caring for children under the age of three years. The Operator shall maintain appropriate documentation to verify such reviews at the Facility for Agency review. Such documentation shall include, but not be limited to, date, time start/end, identification of room by number or name, observations, and follow-up with any noted non-compliance by staff.
9. The Operator shall contract with an Agency-approved education consultant to conduct on-site observations for one year from the effective date of this Consent Order as follows: monthly for the first six months and quarterly for the remaining six months. The first observation shall be conducted within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order. The on-site observations shall include, but not be limited to, all classrooms and staff in their interactions with the children, activities with children, supervision of the children, and compliance with the Regulations pertaining to staff/child ratios. The educational consultant shall submit, within two weeks after each observation, a written evaluation with recommendations and timelines for improvement to the Operator. The Operator shall implement all such recommendations and timelines unless prior approval has been obtained from the Agency excusing compliance. The Operator shall maintain documentation of the training as well as required observations and implementations at the Facility for Agency review.


10. The Director shall be present at the Facility for all education consultant on-site visits as set forth in paragraph 9. The Operator shall maintain, at the Facility for Agency review, appropriate documentation verifying such attendance.
11. For a period of one year from the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall ensure that all new staff receive training on the topic of caring for children under the age of three years prior to their assuming caregiving responsibilities. Such training shall include a review of the requirements of the Regulations pertaining to such topic, including but not limited to ratio, feeding, hygiene, and safe sleep. The Operator shall maintain documentation of such training on file at the Facility for Agency review.
12. Within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall contract with an Agency-approved health consultant to review and revise the Facility's written policies to ensure the Facility's compliance with the Regulations pertaining to administration of medication and individual plans of care. Within two months of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall have implemented such revised written policies. The health consultant shall conduct training for all staff on these policies and procedures within two months of the effective date of this Consent Order. For a period of no less than two years, the Operator shall implement such written policies and procedures, and ensure that all new staff receive training on the foregoing policies and procedures prior to assuming caregiving responsibilities. The Operator shall maintain all documentation required by this paragraph at the Facility for Agency review.
13. Within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall contract with an Agency-approved education consultant to assist with the review, development, and implementation of written policies and procedures to ensure the Facility's compliance with the Regulations. Such written policies and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, (a) maintaining records, background checks, physical plant, supervision, ratio, and caring for children under the age of three, and (b) a written plan for the administrative oversight of the Facility requiring the Operator to conduct quarterly administrative on-site audits for a period of one year from the effective date of this Consent Order. Such written plan for administrative oversight shall include, but not be limited to, the requirements that the Operator conduct quarterly reviews of enrollment to ensure the compliance with ratio and group size during the morning drop-off hours, and address verbally and in writing with the Director and/or any Assistant Director the findings and recommendations after each administrative oversight audit. The foregoing policies and procedures shall be developed and implemented within two months of the effective date of this Consent Order. The Operator shall maintain the written policies and plans along with documentation of the audits at the Facility for Agency review.
14. The Operator shall provide all consultants referenced herein with a copy of this fully executed Consent Order, including the draft statement of charges (Exhibit A) upon entering into a contract with the consultant. The Operator shall maintain documentation of such at the Facility for Agency review.
15. The Operator shall pay a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for failure to comply with the Regulations, due and payable upon the Operator's signing this Consent Order. The Operator shall submit the payment by check payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut" and mail to: Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Legal Division, 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 303, Hartford, CT 06103, Attention: MaryBeth Miller, Staff Attorney.

- 16. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute grounds for the Agency to take other appropriate action against the license.
- 17. Legal notice of any action shall be deemed sufficient if sent to the Operator's last address of record, as reported by the Licensee to the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Division of Licensing.
- 18. This Consent Order is effective upon the signature of the Commissioner's designee if a hearing has not been scheduled or by the Commissioner if a hearing has been scheduled, at which time it shall become final and an Order of the Commissioner of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood.
- 19. The terms of this Consent Order shall be binding upon and enforceable against the Legal Operator's successors and assigns, as provided by law.
- 20. The Operator has had the opportunity to consult with an attorney prior to signing this Consent Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, which have caused this Order to be executed by their respective officers and officials, declare the execution of this Consent Order to be their free act and deed. Lynn Zazzali represents that she is authorized to sign this Consent Order on behalf of the Operator and bind the Operator to the terms and conditions contained in this Consent Order.

OPERATOR
Read 2 Learn Stamford, LLC

CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
Beth Bye, Commissioner

By: 
Lynn Zazzali, on behalf of
Read 2 Learn Stamford, LLC

By: _____
Elizabeth Proietti, Director
Division of Licensing

Date Signed: 08 / 18 / 2023

Date Signed: 8/24/2023



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

EXHIBIT A

First Class Mail
Certified mail

June 23, 2023
Rev. July 24, 2023

REVISED DRAFT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LICENSURE ACTION AND STATEMENT OF CHARGES

IN THE MATTER OF:

Read 2 Learn Stamford, LLC
Lynn Zazzali, Legal Representative
4 Cliff Rd
Wayne, NJ 07470-6285

RE: The Learning Experience
421 Atlantic Street
Stamford, CT 06901-3513
Child Care Center License #70585

Pursuant to General Statutes § 19a-84 and § the 19a-79-2a (d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (“Agency”) hereby provides notice of its intent to seek revocation or other disciplinary action as the Agency deems appropriate and consistent with the law against the above-named Child Care Center license based on the following charges:

1. Read 2 Learn Stamford, LLC of Wayne, NJ, (“Operator”) is, and will be at all times referenced in this Statement of Charges, the holder of Connecticut Child Care Center License # 70585 to operate a child care center named The Learning Experience, located at 421 Atlantic Street, CT 06901-3513 (“program”). The Operator is responsible for compliance with the requirements of §§ 19a-79-1a through 19a-79-13 of the Regulations.
2. Lynn Zazzali is the legal representative of the Operator.

X2023-826

3. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on March 6, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the administration of a child care center when:
 - a. the emergency plans for medical, fire, and/or weather-related emergencies and/or radon test results were not posted in a conspicuous place, accessible to the public in violation of § 19a-79-3a (e) (6) and/or (9) of the Regulations;

Phone: (860) 500-4466 · Fax: (860) 326-0555
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 303
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
www.ct.gov/oec
Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

- b. the Operator’s diapering policy was not implemented where it was observed that staff did not change diapering paper on the changing table after each use in violation of §19a-79-3a (d) of the Regulations; and/or
 - c. staff did not ensure the health and safety of children when staff caring for children with special health care needs (i.e., asthma and food allergies) were not aware of such special health care needs and/or aware of required medication(s) in violation of § 19a-79-3a (a) of the Regulations.
4. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on March 6, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for staffing when:
- a. a review of the Operator’s records revealed that:
 - (1) one staff file lacked a medical statement signed by a physician, APRN, or physician assistant, completed within twelve (12) months before the date of employment and/or a written report of a negative tuberculin test completed within twelve (12) months prior to the date of employment in violation of § 19a-79-4a (a) (1) and/or (2) of the Regulations;
 - (2) one staff file lacked a completed medical statement where the statement did not document the presence of any known medical or emotional illness or disorder that would currently pose a risk to children in care in violation of §19a-79-4a (a) (1) of the Regulations;
 - (3) one staff file lacked documentation of professional development and new employee orientation training and/or one staff file lacked documentation of the new employee orientation training in violation of § 19a-79-4a (a) (3) of the Regulations;
 - (4) three staff lacked a completed comprehensive background check (i.e., no documentation of “work supervised” or “current” BCIS status) in violation of § 19a-79-4a (b) of the Regulations;
 - (5) a designated head teacher is not on site for sixty percent (60%) of the time the child care center is in operation on a weekly basis in violation of § 19a-79-4a (c) (1) of the Regulations;
 - (6) the Operator lacked a written plan for consultation services for the registered dietitian consultant where the written plan was expired in violation of § 19a-79-4a (h) of the Regulations;
 - (7) the social services, health, education, and/or dental consultant(s) did not conduct an annual review of written policies, plans, and procedures and/or the consultative log lacked documentation thereof in violation of § 19a-79-4a (h) (2) (A) of the Regulations; and/or
 - (8) the health consultant did not conduct an annual review of education programs and/or the consultative log lacked documentation thereof in violation of § 19a-79-4a (h) (2) (B) of the Regulations;
 - b. the supervision of the children was not assured at all times while the children are at the facility, indoors or outdoors, in violation of § 19a-79-4a (c) (4) (D) of the Regulations when it was observed that:
 - (1) one staff did not have visual contact with three children in her care while changing a diaper; and/or
 - (2) one staff did not have visual contact with children in her care when she was in a bathroom, logging information in a book.
5. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on March 6, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for record keeping when a review of the Operator’s records revealed that:
- a. the health record for one child was incomplete where it lacked an immunization record in violation of § 19a-79-5a (a) (2) of the Regulations;

- b. the immunization records for four children lacked documentation of the flu vaccine and/or one child's record lacked documentation of the second dose of the flu vaccine in violation of § 19a-79-5a (a) (2) (C) of the Regulations;
 - c. the health records for two children lacked the statement that the children have been screened for risk factors for tuberculosis in violation of § 19a-79-5a (a) (2) (B) (ii) of the Regulations; and/or
 - d. multiple individual plans of care for children with special health care needs were incomplete where they were not signed by the staff responsible for the care of the child in violation of § 19a-79-5a (a) (2) (E) of the Regulations.
6. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on March 6, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the health and safety of the children when the indoor and outdoor first aid kits were incomplete in violation of § 19a-79-6a (c) of the Regulations.
7. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on March 6, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the physical plant when:
- a. the building, equipment and services were not maintained in a good state of repair and free from hazards in violations of § 19a-79-7a (c) (2) of the Regulations where one or more of the following were observed:
 - (1) drying racks were stored on a table in a bathroom and/or on a shelving unit in such a manner as to pose a risk to children; and/or
 - (2) electrical (phone) cords were hanging low throughout the premises;
 - b. a review of the Operator's records revealed that the water supply was not tested every two (2) years for lead content where the last test was conducted June 19, 2020, in violation of § 19a-79-7a (c) (3) of the Regulations;
 - c. electrical outlets were not provided with safety covers where a power strip with 4 outlets was observed unprotected in violation of § 19a-79-7a (d) (11) of the Regulations; and/or
 - d. potentially hazardous substances were not stored in a separate locked area in violation of § 19a-79-7a (e) (10) of the Regulations where one or more of the following was observed:
 - (1) air spray fresheners unlocked in multiple classrooms;
 - (2) Borax and contact lenses solution unlocked in PS1; and/or
 - (3) Goo Gone unlocked in the Twaddler 3 classrooms.
8. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on March 6, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the administration of medications when a review of the Operator's records revealed that:
- a. multiple non-prescription topical medications were not on state-compliant forms and/or had expired in violation of § 19a-79-9a (a) (2) of the Regulations;
 - b. nonprescription topical medications (i.e., diaper creams) were not labeled in violation of § 19a-79-9a (a) (3) (A) of the Regulations;
 - c. nonprescription topical medications (i.e., sunblock and diaper cream) were not stored in a manner inaccessible to children in the Twaddler C, Prepper B, and/or Preschool 2 classrooms in violation of § 19a-79-9a (a) (3) (B) of the Regulations; and/or
 - d. staff trained in the administration of medication were not on-site during all hours a child requiring medication was present in violation of § 19a-79-9a (b) (1) (C) and/or (D) of the Regulations.

9. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on March 6, 2023, the Agency found that that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the under three endorsement when:
- a. group size exceeded eight children and/or no physical barrier separated each group of eight children where nine children were observed in one group on the playground in violation of § 19a-79-10 (c) (3) and/or (4) of the Regulations;
 - b. separate sinks were not available for purposes other than hand washing after diaper changing where a red toy was observed in the handwashing sink in violation of § 19a-79-10 (d) (1) (B) of the Regulations;
 - d. the diapering and hand washing policies and procedures in the Toddler A classroom were incomplete where it did not include the requirement that children's hands shall be washed before and after each diaper change in violation of §§ 19a-79-10 (e) (7) and/or (8) of the Regulations;
 - e. gas trapping items were placed under or with an infant for sleeping where an infant was observed in a crib with loose fitting sheets in violation of § 19a-79-10 (g) (3) of the Regulations;
 - f. objects of a diameter of less than one and one-quarter (1 ¼) inches, plastic bags, and Styrofoam objects were accessible to children under three years in violation of § 19a-79-10 (h) (2) of the Regulations when one or more of the following were observed:
 - (1) plastic bears and cubes in the Twaddler C and/or Prepper B rooms;
 - (2) foam blocks in Toddler A room;
 - (3) foam mats in the Toddler B room;
 - (4) foam blocks in the Toddler C room; and/or
 - (5) bubble wrap, plastic bags, and/or small foam pieces in the Twaddler A room.
 - g. a review of the Operator's records revealed that the health consultant had not been conducting weekly visits to the program and/or the consultative log lacked documentation thereof in violation of § 19a-79-10 (i) of the Regulations; and/or
 - h. each child's bottle was not individually identified with the child's name where at least six infants' bottles were unlabeled in violation of § 19a-79-10 (k) (5) of the Regulations.

X2023-1117

10. As a result of a March 24, 2023 inspection to monitor compliance with a February 22, 2023 Consent Order, the Agency found that the Operator failed to comply with the Consent Order in one or more of the following ways:
- a. the designated Director or his/her designee did not conduct in-person observations of each room in the facility for at least 30 minutes per week and/or failed to maintain documentation thereof in violation of Condition # 8;
 - b. the Operator did not contract with an Agency-approved education consultant to conduct training and/or on-site observations and/or lacked documentation thereof in violation of Condition #9 of the Consent Order;
 - c. the Operator did not contract with an Agency-approved health consultant to conduct training for all staff on the topic of caring for children under the age of three years and/or lacked documentation thereof in violation of Condition # 11 of the Consent Order; and/or
 - d. the Operator did not provide the education and/or health consultant(s) with a copy of the fully executed Consent Order, including the draft statement of charges (Exhibit A) upon entering into a contract with the consultant in violation of Condition # 12 of the Consent Order.

Case 2023-279

11. As a result of an investigation that commenced on or about April 5, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the under three endorsement when the proper staff to child ratio of one program staff for every four children, or fraction thereof in attendance, was not maintained where eight children were observed with one staff in the Prepper A classroom in violation of § 19a-79-10 (c) (2) of the Regulations.

Case 2023-410

12. As a result of an investigation that commenced on or about May 15, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the administration of a child care center when:
 - a. a current fire marshal certificate was not posted where the posted fire marshal certificate was expired in violation of § 19a-79-3a (e) (2) of the Regulations; and/or
 - b. the Operator did not implement its cellphone policy, prohibiting cellphone use in the classroom, where one staff was observed using a cell phone while in the classroom caring for children in violation of § 19a-79-3a (d) (8) of the Regulations.

Case 2023-417

13. As a result of an investigation that commenced on or about May 15, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the administration of a child care center when:
 - a. the Operator failed to meet the needs of children where staff repeatedly relocated children for the purpose of maintaining ratio, causing interruption and distress to the children in violation of § 19a-79-3a (b) (2) of the Regulations; and/or
 - b. the Operator did not ensure the safety, health and development of the children where it permitted one staff without a completed comprehensive background check (i.e., no documentation of “work supervised” or “current” BCIS status) to care for children and/or permitted one staff in work supervised status to care for children without supervision in violation of § 19a-79-3a (a) of the Regulations.
14. As a result of an investigation that commenced on or about May 15, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for staffing when one staff lacked a completed comprehensive background check (i.e., no documentation of “work supervised” or “current” BCIS status) in violation of § 19a-79-4a (b) of the Regulations.
15. As a result of a May 17, 2023 follow up visit on to the May 15, 2023 investigation, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the administration of a child care center when it did not ensure the safety, health and development of the children where it permitted one staff without a completed comprehensive background check (i.e., no documentation of “work supervised” or “current” BCIS status) to care for children and/or permitted one staff in work supervised status to care for children without supervision in violation of § 19a-79-3a (a) of the Regulations.
16. As a result of a May 17, 2023 follow up visit on to the May 15, 2023 investigation, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the under three endorsement when the

proper staff to child ratio of one program staff person for every four children or a fraction thereof was not maintained in violation of § 19a-79-10 (c) (2) of the Regulations where:

- a. one staff was observed with eight children (4 sleeping, 4 awake) in Toddler C;
 - b. one staff was observed with eight children (3 sleeping, 5 awake) in Twaddler A; and/or
 - c. one staff was observed with eight children (7 sleeping, 1 awake) in Prepper A.
17. As a result of a May 18, 2023 follow up visit to the May 15, 2023 investigation, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the administration of a child care center requiring that it employ staff adequate for the number, ages and developmental needs of the children in accordance with section 19a-79-4a of the Regulations where staff reported that, due to lack of staff, two infants were placed in the front office for approximately 20 minutes in violation of § 19a-79-3a (b) (3) of the Regulations.
18. As a result of a May 18, 2023 follow up visit to the May 15, 2023 investigation, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for staffing when the lower required ratio and group size for the age of the youngest child was not applied in a mixed-age group where two program staff were observed with fifteen children of mixed-ages, including at least three under the age of three years in violation of § 19a-79-4a (c) (4) (B) and/or (5) (B) of the Regulations.
19. As a result of a May 18, 2023 follow up visit to the May 15, 2023 investigation, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for record keeping when a review of the Operator's records revealed that:
- a. the Operator did not have and/or could not produce the record, including enrollment and health records, for one child in violation of § 19a-79-5a of the Regulations; and/or
 - b. one child's record lacked a health record in violation of § 19a-79-5a (a) (2) of the Regulations.
20. As a result of a May 18, 2023 follow up visit to the May 15, 2023 investigation, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the under three endorsement when the proper staff to child ratio of one program staff person for every four children or a fraction thereof was not maintained where one staff was observed with eight children (7 sleeping, 1 awake) in Prepper A in violation of § 19a-79-10 (c) (2) of the Regulations.

Title	Proposed Consent Order.pdf
File name	Proposed%20Consent%20Order.pdf
Document ID	06a8be08cbb965c9090f8203fc49d7762743e91d
Audit trail date format	MM / DD / YYYY
Status	● Signed

This document was requested from app.clio.com

Document History



SENT

08 / 18 / 2023

12:38:18 UTC

Sent for signature to Lynn Ann Zazzali
(lzazzali@tlechildcare.com) from ljacobson@mayalaw.com
IP: 173.220.198.131



VIEWED

08 / 18 / 2023

15:55:02 UTC

Viewed by Lynn Ann Zazzali (lzazzali@tlechildcare.com)
IP: 69.126.213.74



SIGNED

08 / 18 / 2023

15:55:15 UTC

Signed by Lynn Ann Zazzali (lzazzali@tlechildcare.com)
IP: 69.126.213.74



COMPLETED

08 / 18 / 2023

15:55:15 UTC

The document has been completed.