

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

CONSENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF:

Child Care Center License # 15729
North Branford Child Care
The Kid's Connection I, Inc.
Jeannie Votto, Legal Representative

WHEREAS, Kid's Connection I, Inc. of Clinton, Connecticut ("Operator"), has been issued license # 15729 to operate a Child Care Center named North Branford Child Care located at 605 Foxon Road, Branford, Connecticut ("Facility") by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood ("Agency") pursuant to General Statutes § 19a-80(b);

WHEREAS, Jeannie Votto 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 February 2, 2024 (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agreements, with regard to the subject matter of this Consent Order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof;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, a Consent Order was executed by the parties on September 3, 2013 (attached hereto as Exhibit B);

WHEREAS, a Consent Order was executed by the parties on January 11, 2018 (attached hereto as Exhibit C);

WHEREAS, a Consent Order was executed by the parties on January 9, 2019 (attached hereto as Exhibit D);

WHEREAS, a Consent Order was executed by the parties on April 5, 2021 (attached hereto as Exhibit E); 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. The Operator shall, within four months of the effective date of this Consent Order, designate a new Director that is not Jeannie Votto or any individual related to her by blood or marriage. Recruitment efforts for the new Director shall begin as of the effective date of this Consent Order. The Operator shall maintain on site for Agency review all documentation of such recruitment efforts, including but not limited to fliers, job postings, advertisements, candidate inquiries, and interview notes.
9. The newly designed Director shall complete Initial Director Technical Assistance from the Agency. The Operator shall ensure that such technical assistance is requested within one month of the designation of the new Director. The newly designated Director shall complete such technical assistance within two months from the date of the request. Such technical assistance shall include but not be limited to a review of the Regulations pertaining to safe sleep, ratio, and

the conditions of this Consent Order. The Operator shall maintain on site for Agency review appropriate documentation of the request and completion of such technical assistance.

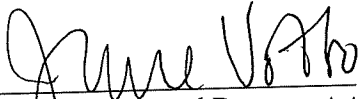
10. The Operator shall, within four months of the effective date of this Consent Order, hire a new Head Teacher that is not Jeannie Votto or any individual related to her by blood or marriage. Recruitment efforts for the new Head Teacher shall begin as of the effective date of this Consent Order. The Operator shall maintain on site for Agency review all documentation of such recruitment efforts, including but not limited to fliers, job postings, advertisements, candidate inquiries, and interview notes.
11. Within two weeks of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall contact the State of Connecticut's Consultation Quality Improvement Support (CQIS) initiative at cqis@ctaeyc.org to conduct training for all staff on the Regulations related to the topics of (1) medication administration and (2) caring for children under the age of three years, including but not limited to safe sleep. This training shall be conducted within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order and the Operator shall ensure that an Agency-approved conduct a similar training for all new staff prior to their assuming caregiving responsibilities. The Operator shall maintain documentation of such training on file at the Facility for Agency review.
12. Within two weeks of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall contact the State of Connecticut's Consultation Quality Improvement Support (CQIS) initiative at cqis@ctaeyc.org to conduct on-site observations at the facility to document compliance and/or non-compliance with the regulations pertaining to safe sleep. Such observations shall be conducted weekly for six months. The designated Director shall be present at all on-site observations. The first observation shall be conducted by CQIS within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order.
13. Within two weeks of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall contact the State of Connecticut's Consultation Quality Improvement Support (CQIS) initiative at cqis@ctaeyc.org to obtain assistance with the review, development, and implementation of written policies and procedures to ensure the Facility's compliance with the Regulations pertaining to record keeping, under three endorsement, and physical plant. Within two months of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall have developed and implemented the foregoing written policies and procedures. The Operator shall maintain documentation of such policies and procedures at the Facility for Agency review.
14. CQIS shall conduct monthly on-site observations for one year to document compliance and/or non-compliance with the written policies and procedures developed pursuant to paragraph 13 of this Consent Order. The Operator shall ensure that the first observation by CQIS is conducted within two months of the effective date of this Consent Order. Within two weeks after each observation, CQIS shall submit a written evaluation with recommendations and timelines for improvement to the Operator. For a period of two years from the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall implement all of CQIS' recommendations and timelines unless prior approval from the Agency has been obtained excusing compliance. The Operator shall maintain documentation of the required observations, written evaluations, and written verification of implementation at the Facility for Agency review.

15. The designated Director shall be present at the Facility for all CQIS on-site visits required in paragraph 14 of this Consent Order. The Operator shall maintain appropriate documentation verifying such attendance at the Facility for Agency review.
16. The Operator agrees not to seek another child care center or group child care home license within three years of the effective date of this Consent Order. If the Operator violates this paragraph and seeks a child care center or group child care home license, the Operator agrees that the application will be denied, and the Operator agrees that it is waiving all rights to challenge and/or appeal such decision in any forum including but not limited to Connecticut Superior Court.
17. If, within five years from the effective date of this Consent Order, the Agency determines, pursuant to its own investigation, without a hearing, that the Operator is in violation of this Consent Order and/or the Regulations pertaining to safe sleep or ratio, the Agency may, at its sole and absolute discretion, revoke the license, without a hearing or other recourse or review, including judicial review in any forum or court. The Operator shall thereupon cease operation upon receipt of notice from the Agency.
18. Upon the expiration of any condition in this Consent Order, the Agency may, at its sole discretion, extend such condition for a period of up to one year from the date of expiration.
19. The Operator shall provide the newly designated Director, health consultant, and CQIS with a copy of this fully executed Consent Order, including all exhibits, upon hire and/or contract execution.
20. The Operator shall pay a civil penalty of \$3,000.00 (three thousand and 00/100 dollars) 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.
21. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute grounds for the Agency to take other appropriate action against the license.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. The terms of this Consent Order shall be binding upon and enforceable against the Legal Operator's successors and assigns, as provided by law.
25. 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. Jeannie Votto represents that he/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

The Kid's Connection I, Inc.

By: 
Jeannie Votto, Legal Representative
On behalf of The Kids Connection I, Inc.

Date Signed: 3/25/24

CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Beth Bye, Commissioner

By: _____
Elizabeth Proietti, Director
Division of Licensing

Date Signed: 4/4/24



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye
Commissioner

Certified Mail
First Class

EXHIBIT A

February 2, 2024

DRAFT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LICENSURE ACTION AND STATEMENT OF CHARGES

IN THE MATTER OF:

The Kid's Connection I Inc.
c/o Jeannie Votto, Legal Representative
3 Silver Birch Ln
Clinton, CT 06413-1174

RE: North Branford Child Care
605 Foxon Road
North Branford, CT 06471-1127
Child Care Center License # 15729

Pursuant to Sections 19a-84 of the Connecticut General Statutes ("Statutes") and 19a-79-2a(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies ("Regulations"), 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. The Kid's Connection I Inc., of Clinton, Connecticut, ("Operator") is, and has been at all times referenced in this Statement of Charges, the holder of Connecticut Child Care Center License # 15729 and, as such, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of §§ 19a-79-1a through 19a-79-13 of the Regulations.
2. Jeannie Votto is the legal representative of the Operator.
3. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on July 11, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for staffing when a review of the Operator's records revealed that:
 - a. two staff files lacked a medical statement signed by a physician, APRN, or physician assistant completed within 12 months before the date of employment for new staff and every 24 months for current staff and/or three staff files lacked the report of a negative tuberculin test completed within 12 months prior to the date of employment in violation of §§ 19a-79-4a (a) (1) and/or (2) of the Regulations; and/or
 - b. two staff members caring for children 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.

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

4. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on July 11, 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 the enrollment records for three children were incomplete where two enrollment forms lacked parental business addresses and telephone numbers and/or one enrollment form lacked the date of enrollment in violation of § 19a-79-5a (a) (1) of the Regulations.
5. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on July 11, 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 violation of § 19a-79-7a (c) (2) of the Regulations when one or more of the following was observed:
 - (1) dirty drawer unit, table, and/or wall in the preschool room;
 - (2) dirty wall in the green room;
 - (3) dusty bathroom vent in the green room; and/or
 - (4) dangling electrical cord in the infant room;
 - b. potentially hazardous substances were not stored in a separate locked area where two disinfectants were observed unlocked in the upstairs blue room bathroom in violation of § 19a-79-7a (e) (10) of the Regulations;
 - c. swings, seesaws or climbing apparatuses were not protected by a minimum of eight (8) inches of impact absorbing materials where the mulch measured less than eight (8) inches around the fall zones of the Kangaroo and/or Little Tikes climbers on the under-3 playground in violation of § 19a-79-7a (h) (2) of the Regulations;
 - d. the playground was not free from hazards in violation of § 19a-79-7a (h) (3) when one or more of the following was observed:
 - (1) an unsecured basketball hoop;
 - (2) a green/gray substance on the platform and/or rungs on the climber in the over-3 playground; and/or
 - (3) a splintered and/or rotted post with sharp edges by the curved slide base.
6. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on July 11, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to maintain the requirements for the administration of medications when a review of the Operator's records revealed that one non-prescription topical medication (i.e., diaper cream) lacked the written permission of the parent in violation of § 19a-79-9a (a) (2) of the Regulations.
7. As a result of a full unannounced inspection on July 11, 2023, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the under three endorsement when one or more of the following was observed:
 - a. gas trapping items were placed under or with an infant for sleeping where an infant was placed to sleep in a pack-n-play with loose fitting sheets in violation of § 19a-79-10 (g) (3) of the Regulations; and/or
 - b. pieces of blue rubber mulch of a diameter of less than one and one-quarter (1 ¼) inches were accessible to children on the under 3-playground in violation of § 19a-79-10 (h) (2) of the Regulations.
8. As a result of a November 3, 2023 follow-up visit to the July 11, 2023 inspection, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for staffing when a review of the Operator's records

revealed that one staff file lacked a medical statement signed by a physician, APRN, or physician assistant completed within 12 months before the date of employment for new staff and every 24 months for current staff in violation of § 19a-79-4a (a) (1) of the Regulations.

9. As a result of a November 3, 2023 follow-up visit to the July 11, 2023 inspection, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for physical plant when one or more of the following was observed:
 - a. swings, seesaws or climbing apparatuses were not protected by a minimum of eight (8) inches of impact absorbing materials where the mulch measured less than eight (8) inches in fall zones for two climbers on the under-3 playground in violation of § 19a-79-7a (h) (2) of the Regulations; and/or
 - b. the playground was not free from hazards where there was stagnant water with rotting leaves in the turtle sandbox and/or rotting wood by the yellow tube on a large climber in violation of § 19a-79-7a (h) (3).
10. As a result of a November 3, 2023 follow-up visit to the July 11, 2023 inspection, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the under three endorsement when gas trapping items were not kept out of cribs where two crib mattresses were not snug and/or one crib sheet was not tight fitting in violation of § 19a-79-10 (g) (3) of the Regulations.
11. As a result of a November 21, 2023 follow-up visit to the July 11, 2023 inspection, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for staffing when a review of the Operator's records revealed that one staff file lacked a medical statement signed by a physician, APRN, or physician assistant completed within 12 months before the date of employment for new staff and every 24 months for current staff in violation of § 19a-79-4a (a) (1) of the Regulations.
12. As a result of a November 21, 2023 follow-up visit to the July 11, 2023 inspection, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for physical plant when swings, seesaws or climbing apparatuses were not protected by a minimum of eight (8) inches of impact absorbing materials where the mulch measured less than eight (8) inches on the side and/or back of the under-3 playground climbers in violation of § 19a-79-7a (h) (2) of the Regulations.
13. As a result of a November 21, 2023 follow-up visit to the July 11, 2023 inspection, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for the under three endorsement when:
 - a. the proper staff to child ratio of one program staff for every four children, or fraction thereof in attendance was not maintained where one staff was observed with six children under the age of three in violation of § 19a-79-10 (c) (2) of the Regulations; and/or
 - b. an infant was not put to sleep in a well-constructed, free standing crib or bed designed for infant sleeping where an infant was observed to be sleeping in a bouncy seat in violation of §§ 19a-79-10 (g) (1) and/or 19a-79-10 (d) (2) (A) of the Regulations.

EXHIBIT B

Certified Mail
First Class

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMUNITY BASED REGULATION SECTION**

CONSENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF:

Child Day Care Center License # 15729
The Kid's Connection.Com, Inc.
Jeanne Votto, Legal Representative

WHEREAS, The Kid's Connection.Com Inc. of North Branford, Connecticut (hereinafter, "the Operator"), has been issued license # 15729 to operate a Child Day Care Center named The Kid's Connection located at 605 Foxon Road, North Branford, Connecticut (hereinafter, "the Center") by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter, "the Department") pursuant to section 19a-80(b), of the General Statutes of Connecticut (hereinafter, "the Statutes"), and,

WHEREAS, Jeanne Votto is the Legal Representative of the Operator and therefore is duly authorized and empowered to act on behalf of the Operator; and,

WHEREAS, the Operator admits and acknowledges that the following violations of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (hereinafter, "the Regulations") did occur:

1. The Operator failed to ensure the safety, health and development of children, failed to manage child behavior using techniques based on developmentally appropriate practice, failed to report to DCF suspected abuse or neglect and/or or failed to maintain staff who have personal qualities to care for and work with children when, on or about May 1, 2013 and May 10, 2013, as observed and/or documented by Department staff, a center staff member pinched a child, leaving a bruise when he was not resting quietly on his cot; concerns regarding this incident was known to staff, including supervisory staff, but no report was made to DCF and, the staff was allowed to remain in the classroom. These are violations of sections 19a-79-3a(a), 19a-79-3a(b)(8)(C), 19a-79-3a(b)(8)(E), and 19a-79-4a(c)(3)(A) of the Regulations.

WHEREAS, the foregoing acts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to section 19a-84 of the Statutes, taken in conjunction with sections 19a-79-1a et seq. of the Regulations; and,

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

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; 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 section 19a-84 of the Statutes.

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

1. The Operator understands that this Consent Order fully and completely resolves the admissions referenced above without any further proceeding; and,
2. The Operator understands this Consent Order may be considered as evidence of the above admitted violations in any subsequent proceeding or determination before the Department 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; and,
3. The Operator waives its right to a hearing on the merits of this matter; and,
4. The Operator understands that 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 she may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States; and,
5. The Operator understands 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 Public Health's designee; and,
6. The Operator understands this Consent Order is a matter of public record; and,
7. The Operator attests, upon signing this Consent Order, that the Center is in compliance with the violations of the Regulations referenced in this Consent Order; and,
8. The Operator shall contract with the Department of Children and Families to conduct two contact hours of annual mandatory reporter training for all Center staff for three years, the first of such trainings to be held within three months of the effective date of this Consent Order, which addresses: the recognition of child abuse and neglect, each caregiver's individual responsibility to report to DCF suspected or witnessed child abuse or neglect, reporting procedures and protection for whistleblowers; further, and in addition to the training to be provided by DCF, the Operator shall provide mandatory reporter training to orient new staff prior to assuming child care responsibilities; and the Operator shall place on file for Department review documentation that all staff successfully completed such trainings; and,
9. The Operator shall, within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order, contract with a Department-approved education consultant to review and revise policies and procedures that address appropriate behavior management techniques and children who present challenging behaviors; the revised policies and procedures shall include but not be limited to: parental involvement, the development of an individualized plan, and the consultation of the education consultant or other resources; and, within two months of the effective date of this Consent Order train all staff on the

above policies; and the Operator shall train, all staff annually and train new staff prior to their assuming child care responsibilities the policy and training documentation shall be maintained on file at the Center for Department review; and

10. The Operator shall, upon signing this Consent Order, pay a financial penalty of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) due upon signature or \$250 (two hundred and fifty dollars) upon signing and \$250 (two hundred and fifty dollars) due the next month for failure to comply with the Regulations. The Operator shall submit the payment by check payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut" and mail to: Department of Public Health/Day Care, 410 Capitol Avenue/MS#12 DAC, P.O. Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308, Attention: Laurie Audette, Child Care Licensing Supervisor; and,
11. The Operator understands any violation of the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute grounds for the Department to take other appropriate action against the license; and,
12. The Operator understands 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 Day Care Licensing Program of the Community Based Regulation Section; and,
13. The Operator understands this Consent Order is effective upon the signature of the Commissioner's representative 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 Public Health; and,
14. The terms of this Consent Order shall be binding upon and enforceable against the Legal Operator's successors and assigns, as provided by law; and,
15. The Operator has had the opportunity to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.

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.

OPERATOR
The Kid's Connection.Com, Inc.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner

By: Jeannie Votto
The Kid's Connection.Com, Inc.
Jeannie Votto, Legal Representative

By: Debra L. Johnson
Debra L. Johnson, Chief
Community Based Regulation Section
Regulatory Services Branch

Jeannie Votto
Printed Name

Date Signed: 8-30-2013

Date Signed: 9-3-13

EXHIBIT C

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
LEGAL DIVISION

CONSENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF:

Child Care Center License # 15729
The Kid's Connection I, Inc.
North Branford Child Care
Jeannie Votto, Legal Representative

WHEREAS, The Kid's Connection, I, Inc. of North Branford, Connecticut ("Operator"), has been issued license # 15729 to operate a Child Care Center named North Branford Child Care located at 605 Foxon Road, Branford, Connecticut ("Facility") by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood ("Agency") pursuant to § 19a-80(b), of the General Statutes of Connecticut ("Statutes");

WHEREAS, Jeannie Votto 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 November 15, 2017 (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 § 19a-84 of the Statutes, taken in conjunction with §§ 19a-79-1a et seq. of the Regulations;

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; 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 of the Statutes.

THEREFORE, pursuant to § 4-177 of the Statutes, 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.

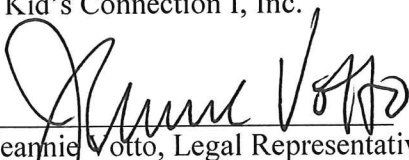
3. The Operator waives its right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
4. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review under any form or in any forum, including any right of review under the Uniform Administrative Procedure 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. The Operator shall, within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order, develop and implement for a period of no less than two years, a written policy that ensures the Facility's compliance with the Regulations pertaining to the physical plant. The Operator shall maintain documentation of implementation of such policy at the Facility for Agency review.
8. The Operator shall, within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order, develop and implement for a period of no less than two years, a written policy that ensures the Facility's compliance with the regulations pertaining to record keeping. The Operator shall maintain documentation of implementation of such policy at the Facility for Agency review.
9. The Operator shall, within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order, contract with **an outside, Agency-approved**, education consultant to provide six hours of mandatory training for all staff on the Facility's policies, plans and procedures, supervision, and requirements for children under the age of three. This training shall be completed within three months of the effective date of this Consent Order. In addition, the Operator shall provide mandatory training on the same topic to update and refresh all staff annually and shall ensure that all new staff receive this training prior to their assuming child care responsibilities. The Operator shall maintain documentation of such trainings on file at the Facility for Agency review.
10. The Operator shall, pay a civil penalty of \$300.00 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: Michael Curley, Staff Attorney.
11. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute grounds for the Agency to take other appropriate action against the license.

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The terms of this Consent Order shall be binding upon and enforceable against the Legal Operator's successors and assigns, as provided by law.
15. 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. Jeannie Votto 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

The Kid's Connection I, Inc.

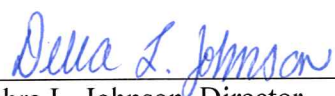
By: 
Jeannie Votto, Legal Representative
on behalf of The Kid's Connection I, Inc.

Jeannie Votto
Printed Name

Date Signed: 1-4-18

CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

David Wilkinson, Commissioner

By: 
Debra L. Johnson, Director
Division of Licensing

Date Signed: 1/11/18

EXHIBIT D

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
LEGAL DIVISION

CONSENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF:

Child Care Center License # 15729
North Branford Child Care
The Kid's Connection I, Inc.
Jeannie Votto, Legal Representative

WHEREAS, Kid's Connection I, Inc. of Clinton, Connecticut ("Operator"), has been issued license # 15729 to operate a Child Care Center named North Branford Child Care located at 605 Foxon Road, Branford, Connecticut ("Facility") by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood ("Agency") pursuant to § 19a-80(b), of the General Statutes of Connecticut ("Statutes");

WHEREAS, Jeannie Votto 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 October 30, 2018 (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 § 19a-84 of the Statutes, taken in conjunction with §§ 19a-79-1a et seq. of the Regulations;

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; 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 of the Statutes.

THEREFORE, pursuant to § 4-177 of the Statutes, 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.

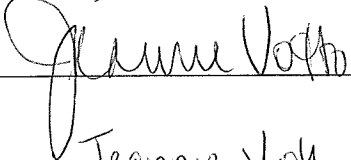
3. The Operator waives its right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
4. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review under any form or in any forum, including any right of review under the Uniform Administrative Procedure 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. The Operator shall require that, within one year of the effective date of this Consent Order, the designated Director and the designated Assistant Director successfully complete training, pre-approved by the Agency, on the topic of the administration of early childhood education programs. This training shall include but not be limited to, supervision of staff, staff communication, classroom and staff observations and remedies for deficiencies, record keeping, staff evaluation and development, and progressive discipline of staff. The Director and Assistant Director shall submit documentation which verifies his/her successful completion of such training to the Agency within one week of completion and, shall maintain such documentation at the Facility for Agency review.
8. The Operator shall, within two weeks of the effective date of this Consent Order, contact the State of Connecticut's Quality Improvement System at thrive@ctunitedway.org and request consultative assistance to develop, revise and implement the program's policies and procedures in regards to physical plant, supervision, ratios, and requirements for children under the age of three. The Operator shall receive, monthly observations for a period of six months from the effective date of this Consent Order, and comply with the recommendations and timelines specified by the Quality Improvement Specialist unless prior approval from the agency has been obtained excusing compliance. The Operator shall maintain documentation of the Quality Improvement Specialist's assistance, recommendations and timelines, and implementation of recommendations and timelines at the Facility for Agency review.
9. The Operator shall, pay a civil penalty of \$2,000.00 (two thousand dollars) for failure to comply with the Regulations, due and payable in an initial payment in the amount of \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) upon the Operator's signing this Consent Order and \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) due and payable on or before February 11, 2019. The Operator shall submit each 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: Laurie Audette, Child Care Licensing Supervisor.

10. If such payment is not received by the Agency when due, the Operator shall pay the entire outstanding balance of the civil penalty imposed by Agency in paragraph # 9 above, within ten days of receiving notice from the Agency that a payment is overdue. Such amount shall be submitted as described in paragraph # 9.
11. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute grounds for the Agency to take other appropriate action against the license.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The terms of this Consent Order shall be binding upon and enforceable against the Legal Operator's successors and assigns, as provided by law.
15. 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. Jeannie Votto 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

Jeannie Votto, on behalf of The Kid's Connection I, Inc.

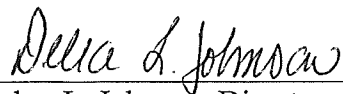
By: 
Jeannie Votto

Printed Name

Date Signed: 1-6-19

CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

David Wilkinson, Commissioner

By: 
 Debra L. Johnson, Director
 Division of Licensing

Date Signed: 1/9/19

EXHIBIT E

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
LEGAL DIVISION

CONSENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF:

Child Care Center License # 15729
North Branford Child Care
The Kid's Connection I, Inc.
Jeannie Votto, Legal Representative

WHEREAS, Kid's Connection I, Inc. of Clinton, Connecticut ("Operator"), has been issued license #15729 to operate a Child Care Center named North Branford Child Care located at 605 Foxon Road, Branford, Connecticut ("Facility") by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood ("Agency") pursuant to General Statutes § 19a-80(b);

WHEREAS, Jeannie Votto 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 to the violations contained in the draft Statement of Charges dated October 28, 2020 (attached hereto as Exhibit A);

WHEREAS, the foregoing acts referenced in the Exhibit A 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 proceedings;

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; 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 related to the provision of child care services 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 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. Within two months from the effective date of this Consent Order, Jeannie Votto shall complete Initial Director Technical Assistance from the Agency even if she has had such training prior to this Consent Order. Ms. Votto shall contact Peggy Freidenfelt, Child Care Licensing Supervisor at margaret.freidenfelt@ct.gov to arrange such training. Such technical assistance shall include a review of the Regulations pertaining to ratios and group size, and the conditions of this Consent Order. The Operator shall maintain on site for Agency review appropriate documentation of the request and completion of such technical assistance.
9. Within two months of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall replace the current education consultant, Julie Votto, with an education consultant, pre-approved in writing by the Agency, that is not an individual related to Jeannie Votto by blood or marriage.
10. Within one month of the hiring of the educational consultant approved in paragraph #9 above, such educational consultant shall conduct monthly on-site observations for one year. These 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 including during transitions, and compliance with the Regulations pertaining to staff/child ratios and group sizes. The first observation shall be conducted by the education consultant within two months of the effective date of this Consent Order. 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 comply with all of the educational consultant's recommendations and timelines for the Facility unless prior approval from the Agency has been obtained excusing

compliance. The Operator shall maintain on site for Agency review appropriate documentation of such observations and implementations.

11. The Operator shall ensure that the new education consultant receive a copy of this fully executed Consent Order upon hire and/or contract execution.
12. The Operator shall pay a civil penalty of \$1,000.00 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.
13. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute grounds for the Agency to take other appropriate action against the license.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. The terms of this Consent Order shall be binding upon and enforceable against the Legal Operator's successors and assigns, as provided by law.
17. The Operator has consulted with its attorney prior to signing this Consent Order.

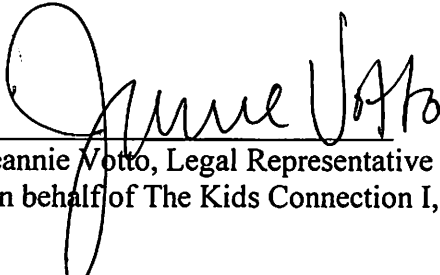
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, which have caused this Order to be executed by their respective officers and officials, declare the execution of this Consent Order to be their free act and deed. Jeannie Votto represents that she is authorized to sign this Consent Order on behalf of the Operator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

OPERATOR

The Kid's Connection I, Inc.

CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Beth Bye, Commissioner

By: 
Jeannie Votto, Legal Representative
On behalf of The Kids Connection I, Inc.

By: /S/
Debra L. Johnson, Director
Division of Licensing

Date: 3/31/21

Date: 4/5/2021