

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

CONSENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF:

RE:

Kiddie World South Main Street LLC
Joseph Pugliares, Legal Representative
23 Gilbert Hill Road
Chester, CT 06412

Town and Country Early Learning Center
195 S. Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457-3760
Child Care Center License # 16365

WHEREAS, Kiddie World South Main Street LLC of Chester, Connecticut (“Operator”), has been issued license # 16365 to operate a Child Care Center named Town and Country Early Learning Center located at 195 South Main Street, Middletown, Connecticut (“Facility”) by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (“Agency”) pursuant to General Statutes § 19a-80(b);

WHEREAS, Joseph Pugliares 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 27, 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agreements, with regard to the subject matter of this Consent Order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof; and,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 two years 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 and shall review 30 minutes of video per week from each room in the Facility to ensure that staff are acting in compliance with the Regulations and following the Facility's policies and procedures. 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. For a period of two years from the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall obtain from each prospective employee, who is eighteen years of age or older, for a position that requires that provision of care to a child or involves unsupervised access to a child, a listing of all employment held in the United States for an organization that provides care or services to children in the preceding five years. The Operator shall take reasonable steps to contact each such previous employer to verify, at a minimum, the prospective employee's job title and description of his or her regular duties, confirm the employment dates, and ask whether such previous employer would recommend the prospective employee for employment. The Operator shall maintain on file at the facility documentation that verifies efforts to comply with this condition and provide to the Agency any information obtained pursuant to this condition upon request of the Agency.
10. The Operator shall ensure that, within one month of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Director complete the online course "Hiring and Developing Staff Members" available on the Childcare Education Institute's website at <https://www.cceionline.com/course/adm117-hiring->

[and-developing-staff-members/](#) . The Operator shall maintain documentation to verify such completion at the Facility for Agency review.

- 11. For a period of two years from the effective date of this Consent Order, the Operator shall require that all newly hired staff successfully complete the Department of Children and Families’ online training course “Mandated Reporter Training for Community Providers” prior to assuming caregiving responsibilities and that all staff complete this training annually. The Operator shall maintain documentation that staff successfully completed such training on file at the Facility for Agency review.
- 12. 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.
- 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 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. Joseph Pugliares 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
Kiddie World South Main Street, LLC

CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
Beth Bye, Commissioner

By: 
Joseph Pugliares

By:
Elizabeth Proietti, Director
Division of Licensing

Date Signed: 3/28/2024

Date Signed: 4/12/2024



Ned Lamont
 Governor
 Susan Bysiewicz
 Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
 Early Childhood

Beth Bye
 Commissioner

Certified Mail
 First Class

February 27, 2024

DRAFT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LICENSURE ACTION AND STATEMENT OF CHARGES

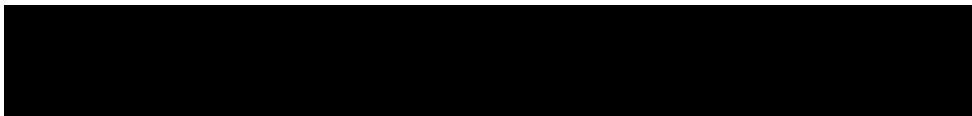
IN THE MATTER OF:

**Kiddie World South Main Street LLC
 c/o Joseph Pugliares, Legal Representative
 23 Gilbert Hill Road
 Chester, CT 06412**

**RE: Town and Country Early Learning Centers
 195 S. Main Street
 Middletown, CT 06457-3760
 Child Care Center License # 16365**

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. Kiddie World South Main Street LLC, Connecticut (“Operator”) is and has been at all times referenced in this Statement of Charges the holder of Connecticut Child Care Center License # 16365 to operate a child care center named Town and Country Early Learning Centers, located at 195 S. Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457 and, as such, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of §§ 19a-79-1a through 19a-79-13 of the Regulations.
2. Joseph Pugliares is the legal representative of the Operator.
3. As a result of an investigation that commenced on or about January 18, 2024, the Agency found that the Operator failed to maintain the requirements for administration of a child care center when:
 - a. on multiple occasions in October 2023, November 2023, and/or January 2024, staff engaged in abusive, neglectful, physical and corporal, humiliating or frightening treatment of children enrolled in the program in violation of § 19a-79-3a (b) (8) (C) of the Regulations where a review of video surveillance revealed that staff:



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- b. the Operator's "Discipline Policy" was not implemented where a review of video surveillance revealed that, on multiple occasions in October 2023, November 2023, and/or January 2024, staff engaged in abusive, neglectful, physical and corporal, humiliating or frightening treatment of children enrolled in the program in violation of § 19a-79-3a (d) (2) of the Regulations; and/or
- c. the Operator lacked a personnel policy for supervision of staff in violation of § 19a-79-3a (d) (8) (C) of the Regulations.

4. As a result of an investigation that commenced on or about January 18, 2024, the Agency found that the Operator failed to meet the requirements for staffing when:

- a. a non-employee who was left alone with six children did not have a completed comprehensive background check (i.e., no documentation of "current" or "work supervised" status in BCIS) in violation of § 19a-79-4a (b) of the Regulations; and/or
- b. staff did not demonstrate the personal qualities necessary to care for and work with children in violation of § 19a-79-4a (c) (3) of the Regulations where a review of video surveillance revealed that on multiple occasions in October 2023, November 2023, and/or January 2024, staff engaged in abusive, neglectful, physical and corporal, humiliating or frightening treatment of children enrolled in the program when staff:

