

Date Issued	December 23, 2025	Status	Closed
Provider Name	APPLE BLOSSOM ACADEMY		
Provider ID	018043068		
Provider Address	1600 S Sycamore Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57110, USA		
Provider Contact	Lisa Carson		

The items listed below are those that the provider was not in compliance with at the time of the inspection.

Compliance Plan Action #1

Administrative Rule:

67:42:17:47

A child care provider shall immediately report any suspected abuse or neglect of a child to child protective services, law enforcement, or the States Attorney's office, and cooperate fully in the investigation of any incident.

Summary of Non-Compliance Finding:

During an investigation completed in December 2025, it was determined that the program failed to immediately report a suspected incident of child abuse or neglect to Child Protective Services.

Corrections to be Made:

- The management team and all providers will immediately report any suspicions of child abuse and neglect to Child Protection Services or Law Enforcement.
- The Director will review and, as needed, update the program's mandatory reporting policies to ensure they align with child care regulations. Updated policies and mandatory reporting requirements will be reviewed with all providers by February 6, 2026. Sanford Children's CHILD Services may assist with the review and development of these policies.
- Sanford Children's CHILD Services and the Office of Licensing & Accreditation will conduct a mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect training for all providers by January 23, 2026.

Corrections Made:

- Sanford Children's CHILD Services and the Office of Licensing & Accreditation conducted a mandatory training on child abuse and neglect reporting for all providers on January 23, 2026.
- On January 30, 2026, the Director submitted documentation confirming that providers had reviewed and signed copies of Apple Blossom's mandatory reporting policies.

Anticipated Completion Date:
February 13, 2026

Date Completed:
January 30, 2026

Compliance Plan Action #2

Administrative Rule:

67:42:17:41

A provider shall meet the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive needs of a child, and identify procedures to implement behavior management strategies for use with children in care. Behavior management strategies must offer

limits, with positive guidance and direction, to help a child develop self-control and respect for the rights of others, be appropriate to a child's age and developmental level, and include strategies to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma.

A behavior management strategy may not be delegated to an older child or peer. Separation, when used as a strategy, must be within sight or hearing of a provider.

The parent of a child may not, while working at the program, use a prohibited discipline technique to discipline the parent's child.

The following methods of discipline are prohibited:

- (1) Spanking, hitting, pinching, biting, shaking, or inflicting any other physical punishment;
- (2) Verbal abuse, shouting, threats, humiliation, or derogatory or sarcastic remarks about the child or the child's family;
- (3) Restriction of movement or confinement;
- (4) Isolating a child in an adjacent room, hallway, closet, darkened area, or any other area where a child cannot be seen or supervised;
- (5) Punishment for lapses in toilet training;
- (6) Withholding or forcing of meals, snacks, naps, or outdoor time to correct behavior;
- (7) Demanding excessive physical exercise or excessive rest; and
- (8) Placing substances in a child's mouth to cause discomfort such as soap, food, or spices.

A provider who is under investigation for abuse and neglect may not be in a caregiving role, if the department determines there is an imminent safety concern to a child in the provider's care.

Summary of Non-Compliance Finding:

During a December 2025 investigation, it was determined that a provider in the school-age room physically redirected a child in response to behavior, which caused bruising.

Corrections to be Made:

- The provider involved in the incident is no longer employed with the program.
- The Director will review and update the program's behavior management policies, as needed, to ensure they align with child care regulations.
- The updated policies and behavior management strategies will be reviewed with all providers by February 6, 2026.

Corrections Made:

The director shared an updated behavior policy, which was discussed with all providers on January 28, 2026.

Anticipated Completion Date:
March 19, 2026

Date Completed:
February 03, 2026

Your signature below certifies you have read and understand the non-compliance findings and agree to make

corrections to be compliant with the identified administrative rules.

Lisa Carson

Printed Name of Provider/Agency Contact



Signature of Provider/Agency Contact

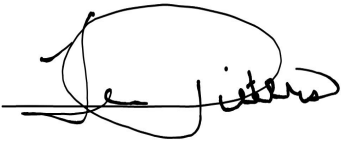
December 23, 2025

Date

The Department of Social Services, Office of Licensing and Accreditation has reviewed and accepted the above plan.

Teri Pieters

Printed Name of DSS Staff



Signature of DSS Staff:

December 23, 2025

Date