

Date Issued August 17, 2026 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:

67:42:17:41

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 complaint investigation conducted by the Office of Licensing & Accreditation, it was determined that a provider used inappropriate discipline with children in care.

Corrections to be Made:

1. The program will implement walkie-talkies to improve communication among staff when assistance is needed
2. The program will develop a written policy outlining the use of walkie-talkies and submit it to the Office of Licensing & Accreditation by August 14, 2026. The policy will be reviewed with all providers, and each provider will sign an acknowledgment of review by August 21, 2026.
3. The provider involved in the incident will complete additional training on appropriate behavior management practices by August 31, 2026. Verification of the completed training will be submitted to the Office of Licensing & Accreditation.

Corrections Made:

1. The program implemented the use of walkie-talkies to strengthen communication among staff when assistance is required.
2. A written policy outlining proper walkie-talkie use was developed and submitted to the Office of Licensing & Accreditation on August 14, 2026.
3. The policy was reviewed with all providers, and each provider signed an acknowledgment that was submitted to the Office of Licensing & Accreditation.
4. The program submitted the completed training certificates to the Office of Licensing & Accreditation.

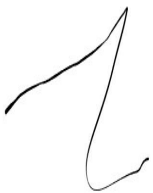
Anticipated Completion Date:
September 04, 2026

Date Completed:
August 14, 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

July 28, 2026

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



7/28/2026, 1:11:01 PM

Signature of DSS Staff:

July 28, 2026

Date