

Ordonez, Michael

#3216

14-542-04

From: Dawn Wardell <dawn.wardell@momshouselancaster.org>
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 2:52 PM
To: PW, CC Reg Changes
Subject: proposed changes to PA code

I am writing as a degreed EC teacher with 25 years of experience in the Early Childhood field. I am referencing PA Code 55 3270.51 with reference to Staff:Child ratios. As someone who has many years of experience, I would like to explain how these ratios are outrageous with the theory of See, Hear, Assess and Direct at all times. Over the years, I have seen first hand how out of control a room with 4 infants and 1 adult can be, not to mention the danger it puts on all when infants become mobile and yet, there is only one adult to change diapers, feed and calm crying infants. Two infants is manageable, four is completely unmanageable, unless they are all on the exact same schedule and age group for development. Having some who don't move, some who crawl and others who are walking makes for a chaotic and "assembly" line care, which is bare minimum. Whoever decides these should step into the classroom and see exactly how much time is able to be devoted to the actual care and love of infants, which is part of their social development! It is impossible to do any one-on-one other than changing and feeding and is unfair to the infants and parents who rely on us to care for their children while they work.

The same goes for the reference for Young toddlers - I actually worked in a center where a child almost lost his thumb due to an accident that was unpreventable because of the 5:1 ratio - one year olds climb on anything they can and when there is only one adult, changing a diaper, they cannot possibly tend to the diapering procedure properly and be in two places to direct at all times. These two are the most obvious issues that I have seen, but asking any one person to be alone with children in this day and age puts the teacher and children at undue risks for simply no reason. There should always be 2 adults in a classroom, no matter how many children are present, because no 1 person can be everywhere; the protection of having a second set of adult eyes in the classroom at all times to protect the adults and their reputations against unclear accusations would also put us at rest.

I would really appreciate the office looking closely at these policies for the sake of the staff that do the job and the children we care for. Thank you

Dawn Wardell

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