

Day care center could lose license over scanty lunches, overcrowding

1) HIMEJI, Hyogo -- Local authorities are considering revoking the license of a private day care center here for serving scanty lunches and accepting a far larger number of children than its capacity, it has been learned.

2) The day care facility, called Wanzu Mother Hoikuen, in Himeji was found to have provided only 42 servings of lunch to 73 children and accepted 68 children for its 46-seat capacity, among other irregularities. The Hyogo Prefectural Government and the Himeji Municipal Government are looking into cancelling the facility's license by the end of March.

3) When prefectural and municipal government officials conducted a special surprise audit on the facility in February, it emerged that the day care had accepted 22 more children than its maximum capacity without reporting it to the city, according to city officials. The facility was also found to have bypassed the city and concluded direct contracts with parents and guardians and charged each of them 20,000 yen to 40,000 yen off the books, which was then pooled by the director of the day care.

4) Furthermore, the facility provided only 42 servings of lunch to 73 children who were at the center on the audit day, including those who were under temporary day care service. Some infants were served only a tablespoonful of food for their main dish. Leftovers were kept in the fridge for reuse at a later date. On one Saturday, only 10 servings of lunch were provided to roughly 40 children. City officials suspect that such poor lunch services have continued since the day care was authorized by the prefecture in 2015.

5) What's more, the child care center was also found to have padding the number of day care staff by three to receive a full amount of benefits from the city, turned off heaters except for when parents visited the facility to leave behind or pick up their children, and filed a false report to the city that the day care was conducting crime prevention drills on a regular basis.

6) The head of the day care largely admitted to the irregularities and told local authorities, "We accepted children beyond our capacity in order to respond to requests from parents."

7) If the license for the facility is rescinded, it will be the country's first case of its kind after the central government instituted a new child care support program in April 2015.

8) The facility was established in November 2003 as a non-registered child care center and was subsequently authorized by the prefecture in March 2015 as a center for early childhood education and day care. Starting April 2015, an annual 50 million yen in public funds has been allocated to the day care. 【Mainichi Japan | 2017-03-20】

見出し
scanty
不十分
な、わず
かな



- 1) revoke 無効にする
capacity 受け入れ能力、定員
- 2) irregularities 不法行為、反則
special surprise audit 特別抜き打ち検査※audit=会計検査、監査
emerge 現れる、明らかになる
bypass 迂回する、無視する
guardian 保護者
off the book (税金逃れに) 帳簿外で、名簿に載らずに
infant 幼児、小児
leftover 料理の残り物
fridge =refrigerator 冷蔵庫
- 5) pad 詰め物をする、(人員などを帳簿で) 水増しする
crime prevention drill 防犯訓練
on a regular basis 定期的に
- 7) rescind (契約などを) 無効にする、撤回する
- 8) subsequently その後
annual 年間の
allocate 割り当てる

★Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What are some difficulties that Japan is currently facing regarding day care centers?
2. What do you think about a series of irregularities the day care center in question has done?
3. If you are a parent of one of the children in the day care center, how would you react?
4. Do you have any memories in your kindergarten facility? Please share.
5. Make sentences using the following words: scanty, revoke, capacity, irregularities, off the book, pad and leftover.