



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE COMPLIANCE**

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

DATE OF REPORT

5/7/2019

DVN

002284657

FACILITY NAME

BRIGHT START ACADEMY INC

FACILITY ADDRESS

4300 RAINBOW TROUT

CITY

COLUMBIA

ZIP CODE

65203

PHONE NUMBER

(573) 447-3400

COUNTY

BOONE

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

NICHOLS, JOY LYNN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(A)(1)

Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision.

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(A)(3)

Caregivers shall provide frequent, direct contact so children are not left unobserved on the premises.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

SCCR has determined that Bright Start Academy Inc. was in violation of the above licensing rules on May 6, 2019, based on statements from Kelly Varnum, Program Administrator; Danilla James, caregiver; and Trenita Strong, caregiver, that Child A was found alone on the playground. In addition, Shada Hall, facility director, stated she only counted 15 children present in the Preschool Blue classroom when there should have been 16 children present. Shada Hall also stated as she began looking for Child A, she was notified he had been found on the playground. During the interview with Sidonie Burton, previous caregiver in charge of Child A on May 6, 2019, she stated neither she, nor her co-teacher on May 6, 2019, Alyssa Eilermann, were aware that Child A had left the classroom. This conclusion is also based on observation by Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Joy Nichols of camera footage from May 6, 2019 which shows the following:

- 10:23 am Child A exits the door onto the playground. Child A is seen looking back at the door before running to the playground equipment. Child A is observed to go directly to the playground equipment (climbing structure) and remain there for the time he is outside.
- 10:33 am The first child from the Yellow Preschool classroom is observed to enter the playground.
- 10:35 am Child A being escorted inside by Kelly Varnum, program administrator.

The events were also sent to CCFS Joy Nichols via email from Shada Hall, facility director, which states the following:

- 10:23am Child A exited the classroom through the playground door.
- 10:31am Kelly (Program Administrator) counted and signed out the Preschool Yellow Classroom.
- 10:33am The preschool Yellow classroom exited onto the playground
- 10:36am Kelly brought Child A into the building via the Preschool Yellow classroom and up to the front desk area where she reported to Christi (Area Director) that he was outside when the Preschool Yellow Classroom got onto the playground. At this same time Shada (Facility Director) was counting out Child A's class, Preschool Blue when she realized that they were one child short. She immediately began checking bathrooms to see if he was there. I had Kelly walkie down to Shada letting her know that we had him and he was safe at the front desk.
- 10:38am Ms. Shada returned Child A to his class.

This conclusion is supported by the incident report completed on May 6, 2019, which indicated Child A ran out of the classroom playground door and was unattended on the playground for a short period of time until the Preschool Yellow classroom exited and found him. The incident report indicated Child A was checked to be sure he was unharmed and both teachers responsible for Child A's care (Sidonie Burton and Alyssa Eilermann) were immediately terminated. The facility had been provided with a copy of Child A's Individual Support Plan, and Shada Hall, facility director, provided the document to SCCR for review. The plan notes Child A will "wander ever so slightly (i.e., he will run off from his classroom, but stop before exiting the building)" and will "run off while in large parking lots". (Note: Per Weather.com, the low temperature for May 6, 2019 was 56 degrees and the high temperature was 80 degrees with partly cloudy skies.)

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
Facility director will submit an elopment policy which identifies steps the facility has taken or will take to prevent further incidents of elopement from the classroom.	Yes	8/1/2019
Facility director will develop a face-to-name checklist to be done at scheduled intervals throughtout the day by classroom staff. These checklists will be available for SCCR to review during inspections.	Yes	8/1/2019
Facility director and all staff/volunteers counted in staff-child ratio will complete an agency approved supervision training for a minimum of 1 clock hour.	Yes	8/1/2019
Facility director will conduct a staff meeting to review the elopement policy and a review of current policies and procedures regarding supervision. Facility director will provide SCCR with a sign in sheet and agenda verifying staff participation in the staff meeting.	Yes	8/16/2019

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

7/18/2019

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

BRUCE, CHRISTINA