



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
9/9/2021

DVN
002621292

FACILITY NAME

LAWALL, REBEKKAH ADONAI

FACILITY ADDRESS

2779 W ROXBURY ST

CITY

SPRINGFIELD

ZIP CODE

65807-3991

PHONE NUMBER

(816) 668-1435

COUNTY

GREENE

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

DILDAY, LAKEN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

19 CSR 30-61.175 (1)(A)(3)

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

19 CSR 30-61.175 (1)(C)(5)

Brief, supervised separation from the group may be used based on a guideline of one (1) minute of separation for each year of the child's age.

19 CSR 30-61.175 (1)(C)(9)

Punishment or threat of punishment shall not be associated with food, rest or toilet training.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

The Office of Childhood (OOC) determined the allegation is substantiated based on interviews with caregiver Rebekkah LaWall, caregiver Kyle LaWall, Child A's mother, Child B's mother, and Child B's father as well as photographs and written statements provided during the course of the investigation.

On August 26, 2021, around 12:00 PM, Mrs. LaWall, Mr. LaWall, and assistant, Becky Nelson, were in the kitchen assisting with lunch when they each heard "a thud" followed by screaming coming from the living room. Mrs. LaWall and Ms. Nelson went to the living room to assess the situation. Child B was sitting in a Nuna Leaf Rocker and Child A was on the ground "screaming and crying." Ms. Nelson picked up and tended to Child A. Ms. Nelson and Mr. LaWall conducted an evaluation of Child A's injury. Ms. Nelson reported, "Child A began to act sleepy and then vomited." Ms. Nelson then transported Child A to the emergency room for evaluation. Child A was later diagnosed with a concussion.

While Mrs. LaWall was in the living room, she asked Child B what happened. Child B reportedly stated, "Child A fell. She touched my leg and fell." Mrs. LaWall then sent Child B to wash his hands and sit in the "uh oh" chair to "keep him away from other children" and "instructed Child B it was not kind to hit others with a chair." CI Dilday observed Mrs. LaWall's written statement of the incident which stated, "Other children finished their lunch, were changed, and placed in their beds for naps. Child B was released to go to the table and have lunch without other children present." Mrs. LaWall stated, "Child B was then put in the cot in the hallway so the other children were not disturbed."

Child B's mother reported receiving a call from Mrs. LaWall "sometime after 12:00 PM." Child B's mother reported Mrs. LaWall told her "no one was aware what actually happened because no one was in the room." She also reported being told that Child A had to seek medical attention. Child B's father arrived at the facility "around 2:00 PM" on August 26, 2021 to pick up Child B. He stated, Mrs. LaWall told him "no one was sure what happened, but Child B pushed Child A causing an injury." In addition, he reported that Mrs. LaWall told him "something more than falling must have happened to cause this kind of injury."

Based on Mrs. LaWall's initial contact with CI Kreitzer, Mrs. LaWall's interview with CI Dilday and CI Radney, and Mrs. LaWall's written statement of the incident, how the incident occurred cannot be determined due to contradictory information and a lack of witnesses. The caregivers in the home on August 26, 2021, each reported not being in the living room at the time of the incident leaving three children unobserved and unsupervised in another room. Mrs. LaWall kept Child B away from lunch as a form of punishment since Child A was subsequently injured during the incident. Mrs. LaWall's written statement of the incident and interviews included at least a 15 minute interval in which Child B was separated from the other children in the "uh oh chair" which is contrary to the allowable time out outlined in the licensing rules and regulations for family child care homes in Missouri.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES**CORRECTIVE MEASURE**

All caregivers and volunteers counting in child staff ratio shall obtain one (1) clock hours approved training on supervision.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

11/30/2021

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

All caregivers and volunteers counting in child staff ratio shall obtain one (1) clock hours of training related to age appropriate discipline. This should include developmentally appropriate practices related to managing behavior.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

11/30/2021

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

10/19/2021

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

WHITE, LEAH