



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
8/21/2023

DVN
002853050

FACILITY NAME

WILLIAMS ACADEMY LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

6814 NATURAL BRIDGE RD

CITY

ST LOUIS

ZIP CODE

63121-5315

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 391-5085

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

OMALLEY, PATRICK

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)8.

No discipline technique which is humiliating, threatening, or frightening to children shall be used. Children shall not be shamed, ridiculed, or spoken to harshly, abusively, or with profanity.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On August 21, 2023, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that teacher Alecia Porter at Williams Academy LLC made fun of Child A (10-years-old), saying their legs were ashy and then was inside and stuck her tongue out at Child A and said, "That's why they're in the heat and she's in the air." After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Patrick O'Malley has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)8., which states the following: "No discipline technique which is humiliating, threatening, or frightening to children shall be used. Children shall not be shamed, ridiculed, or spoken to harshly, abusively, or with profanity."

On August 22, 2023, CI O'Malley conducted an unannounced inspection of the facility and conducted interviews with Alecia Porter, director Carolyn Jones, and teacher Yonnick Jones. Ms. Porter stated that on the afternoon of August 17, 2023, she supervised the school age class on the outside playground. She asked the class to line up to go inside; Child A asked to go inside for a drink of water. Ms. Porter told Child A that they could wait until the rest of the class went inside. Child A made fun of Ms. Porter's hair, saying it looked like she was wearing a cheap weave. Ms. Porter responded with, "Don't be talking about my hair with those ashy legs." Ms. Porter stuck her tongue out at Child A. Ms. Porter stated that Child A was very upset and looked like they were about to cry. Ms. Porter thought Child A overreacted to being teased. Ms. Porter denied saying anything about being inside while Child A was outside.

Mr. Jones stated that Child A was very disrespectful for the entire summer. Child A constantly texted Parent A (parent of Child A) with complaints about the facility and staff.

Ms. Jones stated that Child A was disrespectful of staff and bullied other children.

On August 22, 2023, CI O'Malley conducted a phone interview with Parent A, who stated that Child A reported that "Ms. Phylicia" told Child A that Child A's legs were "ashy" and "Ms. Phylicia" stuck her tongue out at Child A. Parent A denied being present for the interaction. Parent A declined to allow CI O'Malley to speak with Child A. Parent A stated that Child A was no longer enrolled at the facility.

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)8.

No discipline technique which is humiliating, threatening, or frightening to children shall be used. Children shall not be shamed, ridiculed, or spoken to harshly, abusively, or with profanity.

5 CSR 25-500.082(2)(A)6.

Walls, ceilings and floors shall be finished with material which can be cleaned easily and shall be free of splinters, cracks and chipping paint. Floor covering shall be in good condition. Lead-free paint shall be used for all painted surfaces.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On August 21, 2023, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that on August 8, 2023, teacher Terrance Woods was yelling at the children and punched a hole in the wall at Williams Academy LLC . After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Patrick O'Malley has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)8., which states the following: "No discipline technique which is humiliating, threatening, or frightening to children shall be used. Children shall not be shamed, ridiculed, or spoken to harshly, abusively, or with profanity."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.082(2)(A)6., which states the following: "Walls, ceilings and floors shall be finished with material which can be cleaned easily and shall be free of splinters, cracks and chipping paint. Floor covering shall be in good condition. Lead-free paint shall be used for all painted surfaces."

On August 22, 2023, CI O'Malley conducted an unannounced inspection of the facility and observed a round hole in the wall of the secondary school age classroom, to the right of the classroom's interior entrance. The hole was approximately four feet above the floor and was approximately four inches in diameter. CI O'Malley conducted interviews with director Carolyn Jones and teacher Yonnick Jones. Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Woods supervised the school age classroom on the afternoon of August 8, 2023; the children were loud, disrespectful, and did not listen. Mr. Woods asked the class several times to quiet down and the children did not respond; Mr. Woods was frustrated and hit the wall with his fist, leaving a hole in the drywall. Mr. Woods reported that he did not mean to hit the wall as hard as he did, and did not mean to leave a hole in the wall. Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Woods was 18-years-old and was summer staff.

Ms. Jones stated that Mr. Woods hit the wall of the school age classroom with his fist, leaving a hole in the drywall. Mr. Woods reported that he did not mean to hit the wall as hard as he did, and did not mean to leave a hole in the wall.

On August 24, 2023, CI O'Malley conducted a phone interview with Mr. Woods, who stated that two school age children had attempted to sneak out of the facility via a back door and Mr. Woods lectured them about safety. Mr. Woods stated that he tapped his fist against the wall to emphasize his points as he was making them; he tapped the wall too hard and accidentally put a hole in the drywall. Mr. Woods affirmed that he raised his voice, but stated that he was attempting to speak over the other children, who were speaking loudly. Mr. Woods stated that there were thirteen school age children in the classroom at the time of the incident. Mr. Woods apologized to all of the children in the room at the time of the incident and several parents that asked him about it afterwards.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
The facility shall notify all staff members of the violations which were substantiated, and specify the actions to be taken by all staff in order to comply with all violations cited. A copy of the memo, letter, or staff meeting agenda shall be submitted to the Office of Childhood.	Yes	6/4/2024

DISPOSITION	DISPOSITION DATE
SUBSTANTIATED	10/19/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR
CHRISCO, MARLA L