



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

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

DATE OF REPORT
10/13/2022

DVN
000206459

FACILITY NAME

LA PETITE ACADEMY, INC.

FACILITY ADDRESS

1000 BROOKWOOD CTR

CITY

FENTON

ZIP CODE

63026

PHONE NUMBER

(636) 343-2115

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

GRAHAM, JESSICA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)1.

Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision.

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)3.

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

5 CSR 25-500.082(2)(B)2.B.(VIII)

Infant/toddler areas may not be used by staff or older children as passageways to other areas of the building.

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

Staff/child ratios for infant/toddlers and two (2) -year olds shall be maintained at all times.

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(E)

Mixed Age Groups Two Years (2) and Up. Groups composed of mixed ages of children two (2) years of age and older shall have no less than one (1) adult to ten (10) children with a maximum of four (4) two (2) -year olds. When there are more than four (4) two (2) -year olds in a mixed group, the staff/child ratio shall be no less than one (1) adult to eight (8) children.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On October 13, 2022, Compliance Inspector (CI) Jessica Graham investigated the allegation that on October 12, 2022 at 3:50 pm, Child A, a two-year-old, was left unattended in a toddler classroom for 4 minutes. Child A's teachers at the time were EL and SA. There were a total of 14 children in this 2's classroom. EL left the room with 11 of the children to go to the playground. As they passed through the toddler room, Child A split away from the group without EL noticing. This allegation is substantiated based on the following rule violations:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)1. which states: "Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)3. which states: "Caregivers shall provide frequent, direct contact so children are not left unobserved on the premises."

SM, assistant director, was told by caregiver SA that Child A, age 2-years-old, had been left in the toddler classroom unattended on October 12, 2022. SM informed BS, administration, so he could review video footage. From that footage it was observed that Child A was left in a classroom for four minutes unattended while transitioning from the classroom to outside. SM said that there should be four face to name counts conducted before making it outside with the class.

EL, caregiver, stated that she was in the classroom with SA. SA was changing diapers and she was taking the other kids outside. She counted all of her kids and told SA that she was going outside. She was not sure how many kids were left in the room with SA. She did the face to name count three times before going outside. Child A is a biter and has to be shadowed, so she thought that he was staying in the room with SA. When head counts are conducted they are marked on the face to name count sheet. EL did the checks and marked them on the sheet that day. She was not sure why Child A was marked on the count that he was outside when he was never outside.

SA, caregiver stated that she was in the room with EL and Child A. She was changing diapers and told EL to wait on her before taking the kids outside. EL went ahead and took the kids and left her in the room with three kids. EL did a head count before leaving the classroom and she had Child A. After changing diaper, SA walked through the classroom after a few minutes (maybe

around five minutes) with a parent to take her kids outside and she saw Child A alone in the classroom. Child A was not crying or upset, but was walking around the room with a toy in his hand. She grabbed Child A and took him outside with her.

CI Graham observed the face to name count sheets for October 12, 2022. EL, caregiver, conducted the head counts that afternoon. Child A is marked off three times on the face to name sheet and circled. This represents that he was counted three times as the transitioned outside by check marks and then circled when he was observed outside.

CI Graham viewed video footage at La Petite Academy, INC with Brian Schubert, administration. The footage was from October 12, 2022 and started at 3:53pm.

- EL, caregiver, was going through the classroom door leading into the connecting classroom, heading outside.
- Twelve children were with EL going outside.
- Child A wanders to the other side of the classroom while EL is outside with the other kids.
- The door shuts at 3:55pm and Child A is still in the classroom, alone.
- Child A goes to the door leading outside and pushes to get out but can't.
- Child A starts playing with toys.
- Child A goes back to the door and then back to playing again.
- A parent walks into the classroom at 3:57pm to go outside.
- Another caregiver brings two children with her into the classroom to go outside and sees Child A.
- She takes Child A outside with her at 3:57pm.
- Child A was in the room unattended for four minutes.

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(E) which states: "Mixed Age Groups Two Years (2) and Up. Groups composed of mixed ages of children two (2) years of age and older shall have no less than one (1) adult to ten (10) children with a maximum of four (4) two (2) -year olds. When there are more than four (4) two (2) -year olds in a mixed group, the staff/child ratio shall be no less than one (1) adult to eight (8) children."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.082(6)(B)2 which states: "Staff/child ratios for infant/toddlers and two (2) -year olds shall be maintained at all times."

EL took eleven children (age 2-years-old to 3-years-old) outside by herself while leaving SA in the classroom with three other children. EL was out of ratio when she took the children outside.

5 CSR 25-500.082(2)(B)2.B.(VIII) which states: "Infant/toddler areas may not be used by staff or older children as passageways to other areas of the building."

EL took eleven kids (ages 2-years-old to 3-years-old) through the toddler classroom to get to the playground. SM, assistant director, stated that this is the route that the 2-year-old classroom has always used to get to the playground. The 2-year-old class will use the playground at different times as the infants and toddlers, but they do walk through the infant and toddler unit to get there.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
The facility shall have all staff members (paid employees and paid/unpaid volunteers) obtain one clock hour of approved training on SUPERVISION Training may be obtained from the Missouri Workshop Calendar. The training calendar can be found at http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/ . The local Child Care Aware agency may also assist in finding training. The Child Care Aware website can be found at http://www.childcareaware.org/ . Verification of training completion shall be from the Open Initiative Toolbox report.	Yes	2/24/2023
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 licensing violations cited. A copy of the memo, letter, or staff meeting agenda(s) shall be submitted to the Office of Childhood."	Yes	12/29/2022
The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the center's policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding supervision. The facility must provide the Office of Childhood with a statement, signed by all staff members (paid employees and paid/unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.	Yes	12/29/2022

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The provider shall create a plan that ensures children outside of the infant/toddler unit are not using the infant/toddle unit as a passageway. The plan shall be reviewed with all staff members (paid employees and paid or unpaid volunteers) and all staff members shall sign a statement that they will adhere to the plan . A copy of the plan and the signed statements shall be provided to the Office of Childhood.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

12/29/2022

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

12/13/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L