



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
7/19/2023

DVN
002734643

FACILITY NAME

LITTLE BUNNIES LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

3508 S 22ND ST

CITY

ST JOSEPH

ZIP CODE

64503-3321

PHONE NUMBER

(816) 676-8283

COUNTY

BUCHANAN

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

IBBOTSON, JESSICA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)7.

Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting, or pulling hair shall be prohibited.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Jessica Ibbotson conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that on July 18, 2023, Caregiver Debbie Chambers left a hand print on Child A's left leg. After conducting the investigation, CI Ibbotson finds this allegation is substantiated. This conclusion is based on the following evidence of licensing rule violations which occurred at the facility:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)7. which states: "Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting, or pulling hair shall be prohibited."

On July 19, 2023, CI Ibbotson interviewed Director Harris, Caregiver Curtis, Caregiver Miller, Parent A, Caregiver Grooms, Caregiver Chambers and Caregiver Rozeboom. Director Harris stated that Caregiver Chambers and Caregiver Grooms were the only two staff alone with Child A on July 18, 2023. She stated that Caregiver Chambers was Child A's main teacher and with him for the majority of the day until Caregiver Grooms relieved her at the end of her work shift. Caregiver Miller stated that she worked in Child A's classroom from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with Parent A while Caregiver Chambers was on break but did not observe any marks at that time. Parent A stated that she dropped Child A off at the facility at 10:00 a.m. and worked in the classroom while Caregiver Chambers was on break. She stated that she changed Child A's diaper at that time but did not observe any marks on him. Caregiver Grooms stated that she worked alongside Caregiver Chambers at 4:00 p.m. until Caregiver Chambers left work at 4:30 p.m. She stated that she did not observe any accidents or injuries involving Child A during that time. She stated that she changed Child A's diaper at 4:30 p.m. and observed a red mark on his inner left thigh. She stated that the mark looked fresh based on the redness in color. She stated that she immediately called Caregiver Curtis to inform her of the mark.

Caregiver Curtis stated that she immediately checked on Child A once notified by Caregiver Grooms and observed three red marks that appeared to be the shape of fingers on Child A's inner left thigh. Caregiver Rozeboom stated she arrived shortly after and observed red marks on Child A's inner left thigh that looked fresh based on the redness in color.

On July 19, 2023, CI Ibbotson observed a photo taken by Parent A the evening of July 18, 2023. CI Ibbotson observed approximately seven red marks on Child A's inner left thigh, above his knee. Each red mark appeared to be fresh due to the color of redness and approximately one inch in length. CI Ibbotson then observed Child A's left leg and observed faded red marks between his thigh and the top of his knee.

CI Ibbotson determined that physical force was clearly used due to the clear fresh handprint on Child A's inner left thigh on July 18, 2023.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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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.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

3/6/2024

DISPOSITION SUBSTANTIATED		DISPOSITION DATE 12/4/2023
APPROVING SUPERVISOR FOX, ROMENA		