



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT

8/2/2022

DVN

001995668

FACILITY NAME

GODS LITTLE TIKES CHILDCARE

FACILITY ADDRESS

95 GRANT ST

CITY

JEFFERSON CITY

ZIP CODE

65101-4331

PHONE NUMBER

(573) 634-8363

COUNTY

COLE

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

SPAULDING, STEPHANIE

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-300.060 (1)(A)

Children shall not be left without adult supervision.

RSMo 210.254.2.(3)

The staff/child ratios for enrolled children under two years of age, for children ages two to four and for those five years of age and older as required by the department of health and senior services regulations in licensed facilities, the standard ratio of staff to number of children for each age level maintained in the exempt facility, and the total number of children to be enrolled by the facility;

5 CSR 25-300.090 (4)(C)

The play area shall be safe for children's activities. It shall be well-maintained and free of hazards such as poisonous plants, broken glass, barbed wire, open wells, rocks and other debris, and shall have good drainage;

5 CSR 25-300.090 (4)(E)

Outdoor play space for infants and toddlers separate from that used for older children, or the same space used at different times. This does not apply to facilities caring for a maximum of twenty (20) children, including no more than four (4) infant/toddlers;

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Stephanie Spaulding investigated an allegation that on August 01, 2022, in the morning, Child A (DOB 10/3/2020), had gone up the second step of the ladder on the slide in the upstairs playground(which is not the approved separate infant/toddler playground). Miss Susan, the adult on the playground with him, stated that he fell off the second step but that when he did his right leg got caught in the handles on the side of the ladder. Parent A called back after taking Child A to the ER and stated that Child A's femur is broken.

On August 11, 2022, CI Spaulding received and reviewed discharge instruction documents and x-rays provided by Parent A of regarding the injury to Child A. The information indicates that Child A has a spiral fracture to the left femur .

Based on interviews with the staff at Gods Little Tikes Childcare and Parent A, this allegation is found to be substantiated and the following statute and rule violations are being cited.

RSMo 210.254.2.(3) - The staff/child ratios for enrolled children under two years of age, for children ages two to four and for those five years of age and older as required by the department of health and senior services regulations in licensed facilities, the standard ratio of staff to number of children for each age level maintained in the exempt facility , and the total number of children to be enrolled by the facility;

This statute was violated based on the following information.

The facility's Notice of Parental Responsibility indicates that the ratio for children under two years old is one caregiver to four infant/toddlers; and the ratio for children 2-years-old to 4-years-old is one caregiver to ten children. On August 4, 2022, director, Zanita McCrory stated that Ms. Susan was on the preschool playground on August 1, 2022 with twelve children of mixed ages to include Child A who is 21- months-old.

On August 4, 2022, Compliance Inspector (CI) Stephanie Spaulding received and reviewed child and staff attendance for August

1, 2022 at Gods Little Tikes Childcare. Based on the attendance provided, CI Spaulding determined that nine children were signed in prior to 7:30 am when Child A fell on the slide on the preschool playground. In addition, CI Spaulding could not determine the ages of the children signed in based on the attendance documents provided not stating how old each child present was. CI Spaulding observed the attendance for staff showing that four staff members were present at the facility at the time the incident involving Child A occurred on August 1, 2022. The staff present at the facility were director, Zanita McCrory; Ms. Teresa Parker is the cook and she was in the kitchen area; James Epema was inside the facility cleaning; and Ms. Susan Meyer was present with the children on the preschool playground.

On August 11, 2022, Parent A stated that she was told that Ms. Susan had a lot of kids on the playground and the maintenance man was supposed to be on the playground with Ms. Susan, but had gone back in the building.

On August 11, 2022, caregiver, Susan Meyer stated that she was the only caregiver on the playground with the children. The children present on the playground at the time of the incident were preschool and school-age children. Child A who is 21-months-old was the only child under two-years-old on the playground at the time of the incident on August 01, 2022.

5 CSR 25-300.090 (4)(C) - The play area shall be safe for children's activities. It shall be well-maintained and free of hazards such as poisonous plants, broken glass, barbed wire, open wells, rocks and other debris, and shall have good drainage;
AND

5 CSR 25-300.090 (4)(E) - Outdoor play space for infants and toddlers separate from that used for older children, or the same space used at different times. This does not apply to facilities caring for a maximum of twenty (20) children, including no more than four (4) infant/toddlers;

These rules were violated based on the following information.

On August 4, 2022, CI Spaulding observed the preschool playground at Gods Little Tikes Childcare. The observation of the playground consisted of slide with a platform and a tunnel under the platform. The slide from which Child A fell on August 01, 2022 is over two feet high with a gravel resilient surface. CI Spaulding also observed two other structures on the playground that are on a resilient gravel surface, but are also not age appropriate for toddler children. The facility has a separate infant/toddler playground with age appropriate equipment but were not using it on August 01, 2022 when Child A sustained the injury.

On August 4, 2022, director, Zanita McCrory confirmed that Ms. Susan was on the preschool playground with children of mixed ages to include toddler children under 2-years-old, not the infant/toddler playground.

On August 11, 2022, Parent A stated that the equipment Child A was playing on was not age appropriate and that she had received pictures in the past of Child A playing on a different playground with different equipment.

On August 11, 2022, caregiver, Susan Meyer stated that she was the only caregiver on the preschool playground with several children 21-months-old to 12-years-old on August 01, 2022 when Child A was injured.

5 CSR 25-300.060 (1)(A) - Children shall not be left without adult supervision.

This rule was violated based on the following information.

On August 11, 2022, caregiver, Susan Meyer stated that she was the only caregiver on the preschool playground with several children 1-year-old to school-age. She stated that when Child A sustained an injury, she went down the stairs from the preschool playground and yelled into the door of the facility for the director, Zanita McCrory. Therefore, she left the remaining children on the playground with no supervision when she went down the stairs.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
The facility is hereby placed on 20-day notice that a corrective action plan must be developed to ensure compliance with the above statute/rule violations. A copy of the corrective action plan must be received by the Office of Childhood within 20 days of this letter.	Yes	11/11/2022

DISPOSITION	DISPOSITION DATE
SUBSTANTIATED	10/24/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR
CHRISCO, MARLA L