



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE COMPLIANCE
COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

DATE OF REPORT
10/6/2020

DVN
002684242

FACILITY NAME

CROUTHERS ACADEMY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

FACILITY ADDRESS

555 ROCKWOOD ARBOR DR

CITY

EUREKA

ZIP CODE

63025-1015

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 396-2280

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

SPAULDING, STEPHANIE

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

19 CSR 30-62.112 (1)(B)

Age Two (2) Years. Groups composed solely of two (2)-year olds shall have no less than one (1) adult to eight (8) children, with no more than sixteen (16) children in a group.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On October 6, 2020 at 9:00am, Megan Roberts is in the two year old room and out of legal ratio. She has 12 kids per one teacher. This is an on going problem with Crouthers. They are chronically understaffed and out of legal ratio regularly as a result. The management is aware of the problem and have done nothing to fix it. Based on interviews with staff of Crouthers Academy of Early Childhood Development and a review of attendance documents on October 6, 2020, it is determined that the two year old classroom was out of ratio for about ten to fifteen minutes on October 6, 2020. Therefore, the following rule violation is being cited:

19 CSR 30-62.112 (1)(B): Age Two (2) Years. Groups composed solely of two (2)-year olds shall have no less than one (1) adult to eight (8) children, with no more than sixteen (16) children in a group.

On October 9, 2020 statements by director, Claire Johnson; board chairperson, Leslie Crouthers; assistant director, Alix Huffman; and caregiver, Megan Roberts are all consistent in that the two year old co-teacher called out sick on October 6, 2020. Megan stated that when she accepted the eleventh two year old child putting her out of ratio, she informed assistant director, Alix Huffman who immediately called director, Claire Johnson and board chairperson, Leslie Crouthers. Both Claire and Leslie arrived at the facility as soon as possible allowing Alix to go into the two year old classroom and therefore putting the two year old classroom in ratio. All staff agreed that the two year old classroom was out of ratio for about ten to fifteen minutes. All staff also agreed that this was an isolated incident as there was a previous staff member that was recently terminated and another staff member that called out sick.

On October 9, 2020 Child Care Facility Specialist, Stephanie Spaulding observed attendance records for Crothers Academy for Early Childhood Development. A review of the attendance documents does not indicate that a classroom was out of ratio at any time on October 6, 2020 because attendance is electronically taken in 30 minute increments.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

Signs shall be posted at all entrances of the rooms displaying the required staff/child ratios.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

12/11/2020

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the center's policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding staff/child ratios. The facility must provide the Section for Child Care Regulation 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.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

11/30/2020

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

11/16/2020

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CLARK, ANGELA