



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
1/14/2022

DVN
002900409

FACILITY NAME

ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

102 BIRDIE HILLS RD

CITY

ST PETERS

ZIP CODE

63376-1931

PHONE NUMBER

(636) 397-4000

COUNTY

ST CHARLES

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

WILMESHER, LAURA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.102(2)(A)1.

An approved certificated group child care home provider or center director shall be responsible for planning, monitoring, and managing the facility's daily program.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Laura Wilmesher conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that the facility does not have an approved director. After conducting the investigation, CI Wilmesher finds this allegation is substantiated. This conclusion is based on the following evidence of licensing rule violations which occurred at the facility:

5 CSR 25-500.102(2)(A)1. which states: "An approved certificated group child care home provider or center director shall be responsible for planning, monitoring, and managing the facility's daily program."

On January 14, 2022, CI Katie Sims interviewed Abigail Gelinsky who stated today (January 14, 2022) was her last day at the facility and she would like her name removed as the director.

On January 18, 2022, CI Wilmesher interviewed LLC Managing Member, Melissa McKnight, who stated Abigail "Abby" Gelinsky is still the approved director. Ms. Melissa stated Ms. Abby had an appointment this morning (January 18, 2022), but she should be in later.

CI Wilmesher discussed with Ms. Melissa that Ms. Abby asked to be removed as the facility's director, to which Ms. Melissa stated that Ms. Abby had not informed her that she had quit.

As of February 18, 2022, CI Wilmesher observed that the facility still does not have an approved director.

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)

The following staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times:

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(A)

Birth Through Two (2) Years. Groups composed of mixed ages through two (2) years shall have no less than one (1) adult to four (4) children, with no more than eight (8) children in a group;

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

Compliance Inspector (CI) Laura Wilmesher conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that the rooms are always out of ratio. After conducting the investigation, CI Wilmesher finds this allegation is substantiated. This conclusion is based on the following evidence of licensing rule violations which occurred at the facility:

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(E) which states: "[The following staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times:] 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."

On January 14, 2022, CI Katie Sims interviewed former director, Abigail "Abby" Gelinskey who stated Ms. Maya is the preschool teacher and she is always out of ratio.

On January 18, 2022, CI Wilmesher conducted an unannounced inspection of the facility. CI Wilmesher observed caregiver Maya McKnight with ten children, 2-years-old to 4-years-old. After discussion with Ms. Maya and Ms. Melissa regarding the ages of the children in care, it was determined that five children were 2-years-old in the group.

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(A) which states: "[The following staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times:] Birth Through Two (2) Years. Groups composed of mixed ages through two (2) years shall have no less than one (1) adult to four (4) children, with no more than eight (8) children in a group;"

On January 18, 2022, CI Katie Sims interviewed Ms. Abby who stated there were eight infants and toddlers with one teacher, Ms. Ariel.

On January 28, 2022, CI Wilmesher conducted an unannounced inspection of the facility. CI Wilmesher observed caregiver Kayleigh Runnels with eight children ages 1-year-old to 2-years-old. CI Wilmesher discussed with Ms. Melissa that the ratio with even one child age 1-year-old in the group is one teacher to four children.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
Signs shall be posted at all entrances of the rooms displaying the required staff/child ratios.	Yes	12/8/2022
CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
The facility shall submit all necessary paperwork to approve a center director.	Yes	11/30/2022
CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review all licensing rules and regulations regarding staff/child ratios. The facility must provide the Office of Childhood with a statement, signed by all staff (paid employees or unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.	Yes	10/10/2023

DISPOSITION	DISPOSITION DATE
SUBSTANTIATED	3/4/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR
CHRISCO, MARLA L