



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
8/29/2023

DVN
000242884

FACILITY NAME

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

FACILITY ADDRESS

800 S MAIN

CITY

CARTHAGE

ZIP CODE

64836

PHONE NUMBER

(417) 358-4725

COUNTY

JASPER

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

MERTZ, CAYLIN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

RSMo 210.254.2.

The notice of parental responsibility shall include the following:

RSMo 210.254.2.(5)

The disciplinary philosophy and policies of the child-care facility; and

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On August 29, 2023 the Office of Childhood received a report alleging Caregiver Rebecca tied a 2-year-old child with autism to his highchair during lunch time. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Caylin Mertz has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence and rule violations:

RSMo 210.254.2 which states "The notice of parental responsibility shall include the following:(5) "The disciplinary philosophy and policies of the child-care facility; and"

On August 30, 2023 Compliance Inspector (CI) Caylin Mertz conducted an unannounced inspection at the facility. CI Mertz observed the Parent Handbook and the Notice of Parental Responsibility. The facility discipline policy expressly states physical punishment is prohibited. Director Mary Jo Little, Assistant Director Rachel Tate, and Caregiver Rebecca Pickler were interviewed. Caregiver Rebecca indicated on August 18, 2023 Child A was unwilling to stay seated at the table so after guiding him back to the table at least five times she took a braided fabric belt out of her bag and gently tied Child A to his chair . He was there for about 30 seconds before undoing the loop on his own to free himself. Director Mary Jo and Assistant Director Rachel stated they had a conversation with Caregiver Rebecca about how this is not appropriate and she will be required to take a training for Positive Discipline.

Parent A indicated they were not notified about this incident for a week or possibly two weeks after the incident occurred . He does not recall the facility discussing the discipline policy with him at the time of Child A's enrollment. Caregiver Gabby indicated she observed Caregiver Rebecca grab the belt and tie Child A to his chair . She observed Child A crying while this occurred.

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 licensing 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

12/29/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

12/7/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

FOX, ROMENA