



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
8/1/2022

DVN
001667085

FACILITY NAME

URBAN LEAGUE OF METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS

FACILITY ADDRESS

8964 JENNINGS STATION RD

CITY

JENNINGS

ZIP CODE

63136-5062

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 867-9100

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

FYFE, IAN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)3.

Only constructive, age-appropriate methods of discipline shall be used to help children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own actions.

5 CSR 25-500.192(5)(A)

In case of accident or injury to a child, the provider shall notify the parent(s) immediately. If the child requires emergency medical care, the provider shall follow the parent's(s') written instructions.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On August 1, 2022, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that Child B (2-years-old) injured Child A (2-years-old) on two occasions and that Child B was inappropriately disciplined by facility staff. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-500.192(5)(A), which states the following: "In case of accident or injury to a child, the provider shall notify the parent(s) immediately. If the child requires emergency medical care, the provider shall follow the parent's(s') written instructions."
AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)3., which states the following: "Only constructive, age-appropriate methods of discipline shall be used to help children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own actions."

On August 2, 2022, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe conducted an unannounced inspection to the facility and interviewed Vice President Gwendolyn Diggs, Director Yesim Ulak, Assistant Director Mary Hairston, staff member Jasmine Simmons, and staff member Aaramie Cotter. On July 14, 2022, at approximately 10:40 AM, Ms. Simmons and Ms. Cotter were present in the Panda Room with Child A and Child B when Child B physically harmed Child A. Ms. Simmons and Ms. Cotter provided conflicting information to CI Fyfe regarding what each staff member was doing at the time of the incident and if the children were properly supervised. Ms. Simmons created an accident report while Ms. Cotter treated Child A's injury. Ms. Simmons placed Child B in a toy car, which appeared to be a form of discipline according to Ms. Cotter. Child B was upset when placed in the toy car seat. Ms. Diggs, Ms. Ulak, Ms. Hairston, and Ms. Cotter, all stated that Ms. Simmons should have rather used an alternative form discipline with Child B. Ms. Simmons contacted Parent A (parent of Child A) at approximately 12:00 PM to inform them of the incident, which can be observed on the accident report from July 14, 2022. Ms. Simmons did not immediately contact Parent A due to the fact that she was unable to contact her immediate supervisor following the incident. On August 1, 2022, Child B approached Child A and bit Child A's finger, breaking the skin. Ms. Cotter observed this incident and responded appropriately. Ms. Cotter redirected Child B, cleaned Child A's hand, separated the children, created an accident report, and then contacted Parent A within an appropriate timeframe, as observed in the accident report from August 1, 2022.

On August 22, 2022, CI Fyfe conducted an interview with Parent A (parent of Child A). Parent A spoke with a consultant who works with Ms. Cotter and Ms. Simmons at the facility and was informed that the both staff members were not fully trained at the time of the incident. Parent A was not immediately notified of the incident that occurred on July 14, 2022, and felt as if Child A's injury was downplayed by facility staff prior to Parent A's arrival to the facility. Parent A was contacted again by facility staff on August 1, 2022, and informed that Child B had once again injured Child A. Following this incident, Child A was removed from the facility's care and was taken to a local area hospital where the injury was treated. Following their interview with CI Fyfe, Parent A provided CI Fyfe with multiple photographs that document Child A's injuries.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the center's policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding two areas of childcare: Accidents and Injuries, and Discipline in childcare. The facility must provide the Child Care Compliance Section with a statement, signed by all staff (paid employees or unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

2/1/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

12/9/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L