



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

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

DATE OF REPORT
9/13/2019

DVN
000327980

FACILITY NAME

STEPPING STONES ACADEMY

FACILITY ADDRESS

899 GRAVOIS RD

CITY

FENTON

ZIP CODE

63026

PHONE NUMBER

(636) 343-0340

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

DIXON, LEATRICE L

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

19 CSR 30-60.050 (1)

Supervision and basic care shall be provided at all license-exempt facilities.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Child Care facility Specialist (CCFS) Leatrice Dixon conducted interviews regarding the allegation that staff member Chaelynn Long left a 3 year old child alone on the playground for about 2 minutes.

This allegation is substantiated in that basic care and supervision was not provided when Child A , age 3 years old, was left unattended on the playground.

This conclusion is based on the following interviews:

On Septemeber 13, 2019, Danielle Boggs, director, said that on September 10, 2019, Chaelynn Long had stepped in to take over a class for the teacher who went on a break. Chaelynn took the class inside at around 11 AM. From her office she can see the classes come in and out of the playground into the building. A few minutes later, she saw another class going out to the playground. When the staff member going out opened the building door , she found Child A standing at the door, alone. She believes that Child A was only outside for about 2 minutes based on when she saw the class come in to the time she saw the next class go out. The distance from the playground to the door is about 3 to 4 feet but Child A could have completely left the premises when she left the playground because the building does not open directly to the playground. Teachers are supposed to count children when they come in or go out. Chaelynn either forgot to count the kids or miscounted. Chaelynn had not noticed Child A was not with the group until Child A was returned to the room . The facility has already contacted a company to come out and replace the gate and latch at the playground and to add additional fencing sections to keep children who may get out of the playground from being able to leave the school grounds. The facility has already had a staff meeting to discuss what happened and review the procedures for transition times.

On September 27, 2019 staff members Chaelynn Long and Jennifer Watts both confirmed that Child A had been left outside by Chaelynn Long , unattended by any staff.

On October 1, 2019 Parent A confirmed the interviews given by all staff at the facility , that Child A had been left outside alone , but that she feels the facility is taking it seriously and has instituted new procedures and is reinforcing the safety of the outside areas.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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Stepping Stones Academy shall provide a statement to the Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) that all staff have been informed that they must provide basic care and supervision.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

12/3/2019

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

11/12/2019

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

KOCH, DENISE ELAYNE