



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
1/30/2023

DVN
002597042

FACILITY NAME

LITTLE STEPS PRESCHOOL AND LEARNING CENTER 4, LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

2154 N WATERFORD DR

CITY

FLORISSANT

ZIP CODE

63033-2301

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 972-1880

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

HONEA, MICHELLE J

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 25-500.182(1)(C)8.

No discipline technique which is humiliating, threatening, or frightening to children shall be used. Children shall not be shamed, ridiculed, or spoken to harshly, abusively, or with profanity.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On January 30, 2023, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that: On Jan 11, 2023 Ms. E who teaches the older kids/after school kids, verbally told my child that she will break all of his fingers. Another incident occurred on Jan 27, 2023. Ms. E was trying to take my child's cell phone out of his hand and my child stated she grabbed and squeezed his arm in the mist of trying to take his phone. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Michelle Honea and Compliance Inspection Supervisor (CIS) Marla Chrisco has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

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

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)8: which states, "No discipline technique which is humiliating, threatening, or frightening to children shall be used. Children shall not be shamed, ridiculed, or spoken to harshly, abusively, or with profanity."

On February 8, 2023, CI Honea and CIS Chrisco conducted an unannounced inspection to the facility and interviewed caregiver Emyjah Lenoir. Emyjah Lenoir openly stated that she told Child A that she would break off his fingers after an issue with Child A recording other children with his phone. She stated this was in a playful manner. Emyjah also openly stated that she grabbed Child A's arms but did not squeeze his arms because she was trying to get Child A's cell phone and he would not give it to her.

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 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

4/27/2023

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

All staff members (paid employees or unpaid volunteers) must take the online training course titled, "Making a Difference: Protecting Health and Keeping Children Safe" available at <https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care/training-info>. Verification of attendance shall be through the Toolbox report.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

4/27/2023

DISPOSITION SUBSTANTIATED		DISPOSITION DATE 3/9/2023
APPROVING SUPERVISOR CHRISCO, MARLA L		