



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
1/11/2023

DVN
002160236

FACILITY NAME

LSP CLAREMONT, INC.

FACILITY ADDRESS

2937 S CLAREMONT AVE

CITY

SPRINGFIELD

ZIP CODE

65804-7574

PHONE NUMBER

(417) 883-1601

COUNTY

GREENE

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

MERTZ, CAYLIN

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.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On January 13, 2023, the Office of Childhood received a report alleging that staff, Victoria Liles, restrained a child on his cot. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Caylin Mertz has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence and rule violation:

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."

On January 13, 2023, Compliance Inspector (CI) Caylin Mertz and CI Heather Radney conducted an unannounced inspection of the facility. Staff Chelsea Breezy was interviewed, she reported witnessing former staff, Victoria Liles, forcing Child A (four-years-old) to lay down on his cot. She observed Child A (four-years-old) to be distressed as he was crying and screaming. Chelsea reported watching Victoria force the child onto the cot made her feel uncomfortable. Child A (four-years-old) was interviewed and reported Victoria Liles was pushing his legs down on his cot in an attempt to get him to lay down. He also stated "she held me like a seat belt" and demonstrated by putting his arm across his body. This was in an attempt to make the child lay down for nap. Former staff, Victoria Liles, was interviewed and reported she put her arm over Child A's hips and held on to the cot in order to keep the child laying down. Parent A (Child A's Mother) stated that Child A (four-years-old) reported this incident to her on 1/10/23 during the drive home. Child A (four-years-old) told her that he had a fight with his teacher and that the teacher started it. He also stated to her that Ms. Victoria "held me like a seat belt." Director, Tuesdi Raines, reported handling of children in this way is against their policy and Ms. Victoria was terminated based on this incident. When Victoria forced Child A (four-years-old) on to his cot she was not using constructive, age appropriate method of discipline.

PROVIDER COMMENTS

It was reported to school leadership that a staff member was not operating within the state or LSP regulations in regard to the treatment of a child. Upon learning of this concern, leadership took swift action. Leadership immediately terminated the employee and reported the concern to the abuse and neglect authorities and was fully cooperative with both parent and the state's regulatory agencies.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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All staff and volunteers of the facility must obtain one clock hour of training approved by the Office of Childhood, on age appropriate discipline. Training may be obtained from the Missouri Workshop Calendar. The training calendar can be found at <http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/>. Verification of training completion shall be from the Open Initiative Toolbox report.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

2/27/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

1/25/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

NURNBERG, TONY A