



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE COMPLIANCE
COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

DATE OF REPORT
1/6/2022

DVN
002736383

FACILITY NAME

EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

FACILITY ADDRESS

5440 GRAVOIS AVE

CITY

ST LOUIS

ZIP CODE

63116-2339

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 696-2516

COUNTY

ST LOUIS CITY

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

WILMESHER, LAURA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-600.020 (1)

Prior to the employment or presence of a child care staff member in a family child care home , group child care home, child care center, or license-exempt facility not exempted by section 210.1080.13, RSMo, the child care provider shall request the results of a criminal background check for such child care staff member from the department .

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Laura Wilmesher conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that the director allowed new staff to start without background checks . After conducting the investigation, CI Wilmesher finds this allegation is substantiated. This conclusion is based on the following evidence of licensing rule violations which occurred at the facility:

5 CSR 25-600.020 (1) which states: "Prior to the employment or presence of a child care staff member in a family child care home, group child care home, child care center, or license-exempt facility not exempted by section 210.1080.13, RSMo, the child care provider shall request the results of a criminal background check for such child care staff member from the department."

On January 7, 2022, CI Wilmesher conducted an unannounced inspection of the facility and observed all of the current staff files . CI Wilmesher observed that five staff members were missing eligible comprehensive background check results . The staff members missing the eligible results were Kayla Shegog, Briana Benton, Laronda Brooks, Niyah Martinez, and Kalia Hurst. CI Wilmesher observed that all five of the staff members were working with children at the facility during the inspection .

On January 7, 2022, CI Wilmesher interviewed director, Emily Daly, who stated she thought the staff members needed the Family Care Safety Registry screening, but she didn't realize that staff members needed the eligible letter prior to employment .

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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The facility shall ensure that all employees have eligible results from a comprehensive background screening completed prior to a person's employment and/or presence within the child care facility and/or in accordance with 5 CSR 25-600.020. The comprehensive background screening must include verification of fingerprinting of the individual and a requested screening via the Family Care Safety Registry. The facility shall submit a signed statement agreeing to ensure this requirement is followed. A copy of the signed statement shall be provided to the Office of Childhood.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

11/4/2022

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

3/1/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L