



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
4/20/2023

DVN
002931760

FACILITY NAME

TALENTED TOTS - GOWER, LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

3536 NW GOWER RD

CITY

GOWER

ZIP CODE

64454-8144

PHONE NUMBER

(816) 424-8045

COUNTY

CLINTON

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

GREER, JOHN

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)7.

Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting, or pulling hair shall be prohibited.

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)9.

Punishment or threat of punishment shall not be associated with food, rest, or toilet training.

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(E)6.

Caregivers changing diapers shall wash their hands with soap and running water each time after changing a child's diaper.

5 CSR 25-500.182(2)(C)4.B.

An infant's head and face shall remain uncovered during sleep;

5 CSR 25-500.092(1)(B)2.I.

Sitting devices such as car safety seats, strollers, swings, infant carriers, infant slings, and other sitting devices shall not be used for sleep/nap time. Infants who fall asleep anywhere other than a crib, portable crib, or playpen shall be placed in the crib or playpen for the remainder of their sleep or nap time.

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(A)

Birth Through Two (2) Years. Groups composed of mixed ages through two (2) years shall have no less than one (1) adult to four (4) children, with no more than eight (8) children in a group;

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) JD Greer conducted an unannounced investigation of the allegation that Caregiver Trenady Keeton was physically aggressive with Child A (8 months old). Video of the incident shows Caregiver Keeton dumping Child A into a crib, yanking child's leg and pulling a blanket out from under the child. The allegation is substantiated based on the following information:

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(A) which states, "Birth Through Two (2) Years. Groups composed of mixed ages through two (2) years shall have no less than one (1) adult to four (4) children, with no more than eight (8) children in a group;"

On April 26, 2023, CI Greer reviewed video footage from April 7, 2023, with Acting Director Zoey West and Executive Director Jennipher Moore and observed the date/time stamp on the video was April 7, 2023, at approximately 9:30 a.m. Caregiver Trenady Keeton is seen in a blue long-sleeved sweater. Caregiver Keeton is present in the room with six infants and no other caregivers. Caregiver Kiley Nutt, wearing a short sleeved red shirt, enters the room at approximately 9:31 a.m. Caregiver Nutt is seen talking on a phone and steps out of the classroom. At approximately 9:33 a.m. Caregiver Nutt re-enters the room.

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(E)6. which states, "Caregivers changing diapers shall wash their hands with soap and running water each time after changing a child's diaper."

On April 26, 2023, CI Greer reviewed video footage from April 7, 2023, with Acting Director Zoey West and Executive Director Jennipher Moore and observed the date/time stamp on the video was April 7, 2023, at approximately 9:30 a.m. At approximately

9:42 a.m., Caregiver Nutt begins changing a child's diaper and her back is turned towards Caregiver Keeton. Caregiver Nutt finishes changing the child's diaper but does not wash her hands.

5 CSR 25-500.092(1)(B)2.I. which states, "Sitting devices such as car safety seats, strollers, swings, infant carriers, infant slings, and other sitting devices shall not be used for sleep/nap time. Infants who fall asleep anywhere other than a crib, portable crib, or playpen shall be placed in the crib or playpen for the remainder of their sleep or nap time."

On April 26, 2023, CI Greer reviewed video footage from April 7, 2023, with Acting Director Zoey West and Executive Director Jennipher Moore and observed the date/time stamp on the video was April 7, 2023, at approximately 9:30 a.m. Child B (8 months old) is in the swing from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 9:44 a.m. Child B's legs do not move, and Child B appears to be asleep in the swing.

On May 10, 2023, CI Greer re-interviewed Caregiver Kylie Nutt who stated Child B was asleep in the swing. Child B should have been moved once they had fallen asleep but was not. Caregiver Nutt was attending to the other children in the classroom. Caregiver Keeton said she would move Child B to a crib, but she did not.

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."

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)7. which states, "Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting, or pulling hair shall be prohibited."

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)9. which states, "Punishment or threat of punishment shall not be associated with food, rest, or toilet training."

5 CSR 25-500.182(2)(C)4.B. which states, "An infant's head and face shall remain uncovered during sleep;"

On April 26, 2023, CI Greer reviewed video footage from April 7, 2023, with Acting Director Zoey West and Executive Director Jennipher Moore and observed the date/time stamp on the video is April 7, 2023, at approximately 9:30 a.m. Caregiver Trenady Keeton is seen in a blue long sleeved sweater. Caregiver Kiley Nutt, wearing a short sleeved red shirt, enters the room at approximately 9:31 a.m. Caregiver Keeton proceeds to wrap Child A in the blanket and places the blanket on top of Child A's head. At approximately 9:33 a.m. Caregiver Keeton places the blanket over Child A's head. At approximately 9:35 a.m. Caregiver Nutt's back is turned to Caregiver Keeton. Caregiver Keeton's patting of Child A appears to be more frequent and forceful. At approximately 9:36 a.m., Caregiver Keeton readjusts the blanket and pulls it up farther over Child A's head. Caregiver Keeton pulls back the blanket from Child A's head and attempts to offer Child A some milk from a bottle. Child A appears to not take any milk and Caregiver Keeton proceeds to cover Child A's head with the blanket. At approximately 9:41 a.m., Caregiver Keeton appears to forcefully pat Child A on the bottom. As Caregiver Nutt faces Caregiver Keeton, the patting slows or stops completely. At approximately 9:42 a.m., Caregiver Keeton stands up quickly and carries Child A over to a crib. Caregiver Keeton drops Child A into the crib. Child A's leg appears to bounce off of the crib mattress as they are dropped into the crib. Caregiver Keeton can be seen forcefully pulling on the blanket that was wrapped around Child A. Caregiver Keeton's hands are not visible. Caregiver Keeton's shoulders and head are moving in an up and down motion. Caregiver Keeton continues to lean over the crib, but her actions are not visible.

On April 26, 2023, CI Greer interviewed Acting Director Zoey West who stated she began reviewing footage from April 7, 2023, for the whole day. On April 7, 2023, at approximately 4:30 p.m. she found footage of Caregiver Keeton being aggressive with Child A. Caregiver Keeton places a blanket over Child A's head and is seen forcefully patting Child A. Caregiver Keeton was seen on video dropping Child A into a crib.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

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 licensing violations cited. A copy of the memo, letter, or staff meeting agenda(s) shall be submitted to the Office of Childhood.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

12/1/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

8/28/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

FOX, ROMENA