



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

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

**DATE OF REPORT**  
8/27/2020

**DVN**  
000175831

**FACILITY NAME**  
LITTLE FOLKS SCHOOL

**FACILITY ADDRESS**  
631 S GARRISON

**CITY**  
CARTHAGE

**ZIP CODE**  
64836

**PHONE NUMBER**  
(417) 358-8845

**COUNTY**  
JASPER

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**  
MILAN, MELISSA

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

On September 3, 2020, CCFS Melissa Milan conducted an unannounced inspection at the facility to initiate the complaint investigation. The director, pastor of the church, three caregivers and Child A were interviewed. Caregiver Alexis Wilkerson reported all the caregivers have been trained if a child doesn't eat their food the child should be told to eat all their food, and if the child eats all the food on their plate they should be given a cookie. If the child does not eat all of the food they will not get a cookie. Alexis reported she understands the cookie is used as a reward or as punishment depending on whether the child finishes eating the food on their plate. Caregiver Dana McCormick reported children do not get a cookie if they don't eat their food. Director Rebecca Jones, reported cookies are used for rewards when children have finished the food they are required to eat by the state. Child A was interviewed and reported to CCFS Milan he did not get a cookie if he got in trouble sometime that day. On September 11, 2020, CCFS Milan conducted a telephone interview with the former director Mary Schwab. Ms. Schwab reported she instructed caregivers during staff meetings to use the "Happy Plate" cookie reward method to encourage children to eat all the components of their meal, and to encourage the children to try new foods. Ms. Schwab reported some caregivers gave the children cookies even if the children did not finished their plate of food. She had to have talks with those caregivers not to do that, as she didn't see a reason to give a cookie if it wasn't an incentive for good behavior.

Based on information obtained from observations and interviews, CCFS Milan determined food was used as a punishment or negative reinforcement for children at the facility.

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
	No	

**DISPOSITION**  
SUBSTANTIATED

**DISPOSITION DATE**  
10/27/2020

**APPROVING SUPERVISOR**  
WHITE, LEAH