



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

**DATE OF REPORT**  
12/15/2020

**DVN**  
002684215

**FACILITY NAME**

THE MORGAN SCHOOL-WENTZVILLE

**FACILITY ADDRESS**

100 PERRY CATE BLVD

**CITY**

WENTZVILLE

**ZIP CODE**

63385-4719

**PHONE NUMBER**

(636) 856-9240

**COUNTY**

ST CHARLES

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**

SPAULDING, STEPHANIE

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.182 (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.

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(C)(7)

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

19 CSR 30-62.182 (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.

RSMo 210.115.1

Reports of abuse, neglect, and under age eighteen deaths - persons required to report - supervisors and administrators not to impede reporting - deaths required to be reported to the division or child fatality review panel, when - report made to another state, when. - When any physician, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, resident, intern, nurse, hospital or clinic personnel that are engaged in the examination, care, treatment or research of persons, and any other health practitioner, psychologist, mental health professional, social worker, day care center worker or other child-care worker, juvenile officer, probation or parole officer, jail or detention center personnel, teacher, principal or other school official, minister as provided by section 352.400, peace officer or law enforcement official, volunteer or personnel of a community service program that offers support services for families in crisis to assist in the delegation of any powers regarding the care and custody of a child by a properly executed power of attorney pursuant to sections 475.600 to 475.604, or other person with responsibility for the care of children has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that person shall immediately report to the division in accordance with the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183. No internal investigation shall be initiated until such a report has been made. As used in this section, the term "abuse" is not limited to abuse inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care, custody and control as specified in section 210.110, but shall also include abuse inflicted by any other person.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

On December 16, 2020 the Section for Child Care Regulation received an allegation that on December 15, 2020, staff member Cara Strecky came to the director, Jenifer Fallert with something she had just seen in the classroom at around 9:30 AM on December 15, 2020. Cara told Jenifer that she had been in the classroom bathroom with another child. Cara heard a smacking noise, heard a child begin to cry, and turned around to see what happened. Another staff member, Megan Hieb who was in the room with the children, told Cara that Child A, age 2 1/2, with some possible special needs, had been hitting her (Megan) and she reflexively hit him back. Cara immediately reported this to the director. Jenifer called Megan to the office, wrote up a discipline report and discussed it with Megan who admitted she had tapped the child on the stomach reflexively after he hit her. Based on interviews with the staff of The Morgan School-Wentzville, this allegation is found to be substantiated and the following violations are being cited.

19 CSR 30-62.182 (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.

AND

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(C)(7): Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting or pulling hair

shall be prohibited.

AND

19 CSR 30-62.182 (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.

On December 18, 2020 Child Care Facility Specialist, Stephanie Spaulding observed the statement of caregiver, Cara Strecky written by director, Jenifer Fallert on December 15, 2020. The statement is as follows: "Cara was changing another child. The other teacher (Megan H) was with a child. Cara heard a smack. Megan then admitted to Cara that the child hit her so she hit him back. Megan then checked to make sure there was not a red mark on the child. Megan also put her hand on the child's neck and the child cried". This statement was signed by Cara Strecky on December 15, 2020. However, it was misdated as December 14, 2020.

On December 18, 2020 Child Care Facility Specialist, Stephanie Spaulding observed the Employee Discipline Report for caregiver, Megan Hieb regarding the incident involving Child A (2 years old) on December 15, 2020. The report is dated December 15, 2020 and states "Reason for write-up: It was brought to our attention that Megan put her hands on a child in anger and hurt the child. Physical contact with a child is grounds for automatic termination. Actions taken prior: Megan has been counseled on several occasions on appropriate response to children and how to channel frustration in positive ways". This write up was signed by director, Jenifer Fallert and caregiver, Megan Hieb. Megan also provided a statement on this write up. The statement is as follows: "Child A was ripping up a toy in the classroom. I went to remove him and he turned and slapped me in the face. When he did, on reflex, I turned and tapped him on the stomach".

On December 18, 2020 staff of The Morgan School-Wentzville all provided consistent statements that caregiver, Cara Strecky informed administration of an incident involving Child A and co-teacher, Megan Hieb. In which, Megan hit Child A as a reflex action from Child A having hit her. Director, Jenifer Fallert stated that Megan was brought to the office and terminated from employment based on the statement of Cara and Megan's statement regarding the incident.

In addition, through the investigation, it was determined that Child A was put in a stroller on December 15, 2020 as a form of restraint and/or discipline. Former caregiver, Megan Hieb stated that she was instructed by director, Jenifer Fallert to place Child A in the stroller as a way to calm himself down when he is displaying behaviors. Therefore, Megan stated that on December 15, 2020 she placed Child A in the stroller to calm himself down and so that he would not harm himself or anyone else in the classroom.

In addition, through the investigation the following statute is being cited:

RSMo 210.115.1: Reports of abuse, neglect, and under age eighteen deaths - persons required to report - supervisors and administrators not to impede reporting - deaths required to be reported to the division or child fatality review panel, when - report made to another state, when. - When any physician, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, resident, intern, nurse, hospital or clinic personnel that are engaged in the examination, care, treatment or research of persons, and any other health practitioner, psychologist, mental health professional, social worker, day care center worker or other child-care worker, juvenile officer, probation or parole officer, jail or detention center personnel, teacher, principal or other school official, minister as provided by section 352.400, peace officer or law enforcement official, volunteer or personnel of a community service program that offers support services for families in crisis to assist in the delegation of any powers regarding the care and custody of a child by a properly executed power of attorney pursuant to sections 475.600 to 475.604, or other person with responsibility for the care of children has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that person shall immediately report to the division in accordance with the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183. No internal investigation shall be initiated until such a report has been made. As used in this section, the term "abuse" is not limited to abuse inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care, custody and control as specified in section 210.110, but shall also include abuse inflicted by any other person.

On December 18, 2020 CCFS Spaulding asked caregiver, Ashlyn if she felt the concerns that she had regarding Megan Hieb were so concerning to her, did she contact the child abuse and neglect hotline as a mandated reporter. Ashlyn stated "no".

On December 18, 2020 CCFS Spaulding asked caregiver, Cara if she called the child abuse and neglect hotline regarding her concerns and the things that she witnessed by Megan Hieb as she is a mandated reporter. Cara stated "no".

On December 18, 2020 CCFS Spaulding asked director, Jenifer if she had contacted the child abuse and neglect hotline. Jennifer stated that she did call the hotline after she spoke to her specialist and the hotline did not accept the report.

## **CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

<b>CORRECTIVE MEASURE</b>		<b>COMPLETED (Y/N)</b>	<b>COMPLETED DATE</b>
All staff members (paid employees or unpaid volunteers) must take the 1.0 clock hour DHSS online training course titled, "Making a Difference: Protecting Health and Keeping Children Safe" available at <a href="https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/onlinetraining.php">https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/onlinetraining.php</a> Verification of attendance shall be through the Toolbox report.		Yes	4/13/2021
<b>CORRECTIVE MEASURE</b>		<b>COMPLETED (Y/N)</b>	<b>COMPLETED DATE</b>
The facility shall have all staff members (paid employees and paid/unpaid volunteers) obtain one (1) clock hour of approved training on DISCIPLINE, outside The Morgan School-Wentzville network. Training may be obtained from the Missouri Workshop Calendar. The training calendar can be found at <a href="http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/">http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/</a> . The local Child Care Aware agency may also assist in finding training. The Child Care Aware website can be found at <a href="http://www.childcareaware.org/">http://www.childcareaware.org/</a> . Verification of training completion shall be from the Open Initiative Toolbox report.		Yes	4/13/2021
<b>DISPOSITION</b>		<b>DISPOSITION DATE</b>	
SUBSTANTIATED		2/10/2021	
<b>APPROVING SUPERVISOR</b>			
CLARK, ANGELA			