



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

DATE OF REPORT

1/6/2021

DVN

002627376

FACILITY NAME

LITTLE SUNSHINE'S DAYCARE & LEARNING CENTER LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

2183 MUEGGE RD

CITY

ST CHARLES

ZIP CODE

63303-4332

PHONE NUMBER

(636) 317-1492

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)(5)

Brief, supervised separation from the group may be used based on a guideline of one (1) minute of separation for each year of the child's age.

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.

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(C)(9)

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

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On January 6, 2021 the Section for Child Care Regulation received an allegation that caregiver, Chasity (last name unknown), has been seen putting children ages two to four years old in high chairs for discipline and threatened to put Child A , DOB: 12/03/2017, in a high chair for discipline. Based on interviews with staff of Little Sunshine's Daycare & Learning Center LLC, the following rule 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)(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.

AND

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(C)(5): Brief, supervised separation from the group may be used based on a guideline of one (1) minute of separation for each year of the child's age.

AND

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(C)(9) Punishment or threat of punishment shall not be associated with food, rest or toilet training.

On January 7, 2021 caregiver, Breanna Columbo, caregiver, stated that they have highchairs in the 2's room. Child B, age 2 and a half, is put in a highchair during potty breaks. Breanna has seen Child B try to get out of the chair, and Child B wasn't let out of the chair immediately. Chastity was the teacher at the time.

On January 7, 2021 caregiver, Chastity Gray stated that she has children who like to run, and she puts them in a highchair with toys. If children are being physical, then the children will eat lunch in the highchair. This happens maybe once or twice a week. The children placed in the highchair are Child B, age 2 and a half, and Child E, age 2 and a half. Child B likes to run through the gate. Child E is in the highchair for about 15 minutes during lunch. The other children are at the table. Child B may be in the highchair for 7 minutes during potty breaks, with toys to keep her occupied. Erin (LLC managing member) told me to use the highchair for lunchtime. If a child cried, then they were removed from the highchair. It isn't immediately for Child B to be removed from the highchair. Chastity has observed Child A in the highchair-Molly put her in the highchair during bathroom breaks and

lunch.

On January 7, 2021 caregiver, Molly Muiznieks stated that there is a highchair in the 3's room. Molly puts Child B, age 2 and a half years, in the highchair for potty breaks, to keep Child B seated, and not make everyone go crazy. They have been using the highchair with Child B since she was 2 years old. Child B is usually in the highchair less than 10 minutes.

On January 7, 2021 acting director, Morgan DeRousse stated that the highchair was being used now in the 3's room when Child C, age 3 years old, was moved to the 3's room. The highchair is used for timeout, and parents know about it. Child C won't sit in timeout, so parents asked the facility to use a highchair. This has been going on since before Morgan started, in November, 2020. Morgan asked Chastity about Child E being in the highchair, Child E was screaming. Chastity told Morgan that Erin (LLC managing member) told her to do use the highchair. Morgan stated she has put the highchair in the furnace room, but it still is brought back out. Having it out is more of a headache for Morgan because the kids just play on it and it's a problem being out in the open.

On January 7, 2021 Parent A stated that on an unknown date (she couldn't remember the exact date) when she came to pick up Child A, she saw Child C in a highchair screaming and kicking to be let out. She stated that she was in the classroom for 10-15 minutes in which time, caregiver, Chastity told Child C "no" to getting out of the high chair. Parent A stated that Chastity told her "we put them in there when they are bad" and "it's been a rough day". Parent A stated that Chastity told her she had to threaten to put Child A in the highchair, but has never seen Child A in a highchair.

On January 7, 2021 CCFS Spaulding attempted to interview Child A, but Child A would not respond to any questions from CCFS Spaulding as he was running around during the interview.

On March 2, 2021 CCFS Spaulding attempted to contact Parent C. A voicemail was left and CCFS Spaulding has not received a return call as of April 2, 2021.

On March 5, 2021 Parent E stated that she asked about the children in the highchair, and the 2 year old teacher explained that they do have to put children in the highchair as a form of timeout because the children won't go to timeout freely. I would see other children in the highchair, but I don't know how long they were in the highchair. Parent E was not aware that Child E, age two and a half years, was placed in a highchair during lunchtime.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
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 https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/onlinetraining.php Verification of attendance shall be through the Toolbox report.	Yes	8/13/2021
All staff and volunteers of Little Sunshine's Daycare & Learning Center LLC must obtain one (1) clock hour of training approved by the the Section for Child Care Regulation, on age appropriate discipline. The training must be held by an approved and qualified source, outside of the Little Sunshine's Daycare & Learning Center LLC network. 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.	Yes	8/13/2021

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

5/13/2021

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CLARK, ANGELA