



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
3/20/2022

DVN
002783813

FACILITY NAME

FREEMAN LEARNING CENTER

FACILITY ADDRESS

3606 INDIANA AVE

CITY

JOPLIN

ZIP CODE

64804-4728

PHONE NUMBER

(417) 347-3608

COUNTY

NEWTON

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

IBBOTSON, JESSICA

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 25-500.192(5)(A)

In case of accident or injury to a child, the provider shall notify the parent(s) immediately. If the child requires emergency medical care, the provider shall follow the parent's(s') written instructions.

5 CSR 25-500.192(5)(B)

Information regarding the date and circumstance of any accident or injury shall be noted in the child's record.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Jessica Glover conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that Child A (4-years-old) reported to Caregiver Whitney Huelskamp that he was grabbed by his neck from Caregiver Patricia McCarty. After conducting the investigation, CI Glover finds this allegation is substantiated. This conclusion is based on the following evidence of licensing rule violations which occurred at the facility:

5 CSR 25-500.182(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."

On March 21, 2022, CI Glover interviewed Director Josh Sharp who stated that Ms. McCarty was immediately put on administrative leave after learning that Child A stated she squished his face. Mr. Sharp stated there were previous issues with Ms. McCarty in regards to her tone of voice she used towards the children. Caregivers Katelyn Russell and Whitney Huelskamp stated they had concerns with the way Ms. McCarty spoke to the children as well. Ms. Huelskamp stated that Child A reported to her that Ms. McCarty squished his face. Ms. Russell stated that Child A reported to her that Ms. McCarty hurt his neck. Ms. Russell told Ms. Huelskamp to monitor children in the bathroom with Ms. McCarty to ensure children's safety. Ms. Huelskamp stated she and Learning Center Specialist Morgan Christensen had Child A demonstrate on Ms. Christensen how Ms. McCarty touched him, which he proceeded by squeezing her chin and neck. Ms. Huelskamp stated she observed redness on Child A's chin. Ms. Huelskamp also stated that Child A did not want to be near Ms. McCarty afterwards, which was not common behavior from him.

5 CSR 25-500.192(5)(A) which states: "In case of accident or injury to a child, the provider shall notify the parent(s) immediately. If the child requires emergency medical care, the provider shall follow the parent's(s') written instructions."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.192(5)(B) which states: "Information regarding the date and circumstance of any accident or injury shall be noted in the child's record."

On March 21, 2022, CI Glover interviewed Parent A (Parent of Child A) who stated she never received an accident/injury report from the facility and did not receive a phone call until a day after the incident. Mr. Sharp stated an accident/injury report was not documented and he did not call Parent A until he received instructions from human resources to do so. Mr. Sharp stated he called Parent A on the evening of March 18, 2022, but stated the incident occurred on March 17, 2022.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the center's policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding accidents and injuries. 5 CSR 25-500.192 Health Care (5) Accidents, Injuries and Emergency Medical Care. (A-C). The facility must provide the Child Care Compliance Section with a statement, signed by all staff (paid employees or unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

11/29/2022

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the policies and licensing rules and regulations regarding discipline. The facility must provide the Office of Childhood with a statement, signed by all staff members (paid employees and paid/unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

11/29/2022

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

10/18/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

NURNBERG, TONY A