



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
3/7/2022

DVN
000175126

FACILITY NAME

LA PETITE ACADEMY, INC.

FACILITY ADDRESS

2010 N 7 HWY

CITY

BLUE SPRINGS

ZIP CODE

64014

PHONE NUMBER

(816) 229-0872

COUNTY

JACKSON

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

IBBOTSON, JESSICA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)

The following staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times:

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;

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(C)

Ages Three Through Four (3-4) Years. Groups composed solely of three (3) - and four (4) -year olds shall have no less than one (1) adult to ten (10) children;

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Jessica Glover conducted an unannounced inspection regarding the allegation that the facility is consistently out of ratio. 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 25-500.112(1) which states: "The following staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times:"

AND

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;"

AND

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(C) which states: "Ages Three Through Four (3-4) Years. Groups composed solely of three (3) - and four (4) -year olds shall have no less than one (1) adult to ten (10) children;"

On March 7, 2022, Director Mary Maloid stated the facility had been out of ratio approximately once or twice a week for the past month. Ms. Maloid stated the toddler classroom has been consistently out of staff/child ratios. Assistant Director Kristina Peoples stated the mornings were difficult for maintaining staff/child ratios in the 3-years and older age groups, admitting that these classrooms were out of ratio for short periods of time until additional staff showed up for the start of their shifts. Ms. Peoples stated she was aware that the infant classroom had one caregiver to five infants on March 4, 2022. Caregiver Natasha Cossey stated she was alone with five infants on March 4, 2022, for the entire work day. Ms. Cossey stated she had been left alone with five infants every morning during drop-off time. Ms. Cossey also stated the infant classroom had been out of staff/child ratio approximately twice a week for the entire work day. Ms. Cossey stated there were times when two teachers were with ten infants and toddlers. Caregiver Callie Newkirk stated the infant and toddler classrooms were out of staff/child ratios in the mornings during child drop-off times approximately once every two weeks. Ms. Newkirk stated the infant classroom often had to teachers with nine children in the mornings until Ms. Maloid moved children over to the toddler classroom. Ms. Newkirk also stated the infant classroom was consistently out of ratio for approximately five minutes each morning. The attendance documented for March 4, 2022, indicate that the infant and toddler classrooms were both out of staff/child ratio with there being five infants to only one caregiver and six toddlers with only caregiver.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The facility director will review 5 CSR 25-500.112 Staff/Child Ratios with all

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

1/9/2023

assistants, paid employees and paid/unpaid volunteers. The provider, assistants and all staff will then sign a statement to indicate they understand and agree to follow all rules and regulations concerning staff/child ratios. A copy of the signed statements shall be provided to the Section for Child Care Regulation and will be kept as part of the facility's file.

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

Signs shall be posted at all entrances of the rooms displaying the required staff/child ratios.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

12/29/2022

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

5/6/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

NURNBERG, TONY A