



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
12/27/2022

DVN
002752436

FACILITY NAME

NEW CITY EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

FACILITY ADDRESS

8622 BLUE RIDGE BLVD

CITY

KANSAS CITY

ZIP CODE

64138

PHONE NUMBER

(816) 356-4454

COUNTY

JACKSON

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

IBBOTSON, JESSICA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

RSMo 210.254.3.

A copy of notice of parental responsibility, signed by the principal operating officer of the exempt child-care facility and the individual primarily responsible for the religious organization conducting the child-care facility and copies of the annual fire and safety inspections shall be filed annually during the month of August with the department of health and senior services.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Jessica Glover conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that children in the infant classroom were left without adult supervision. 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:

RSMo 210.254.3. which states: "A copy of notice of parental responsibility, signed by the principal operating officer of the exempt child-care facility and the individual primarily responsible for the religious organization conducting the child-care facility and copies of the annual fire and safety inspections shall be filed annually during the month of August with the department of health and senior services."

On January 25, 2022, CI Glover called manager Brandy Peterson who stated that she was working in the infant classroom when Reporter/Parent A (Parent of Child A, 6-months-old) was with her, picking Child A up from the facility. Ms. Peterson stated that another parent had arrived and rang the doorbell but there was no additional staff available to open the front door. Ms. Peterson stated that she asked Reporter/Parent A to stay in the classroom, leaving two other children alone with him and Child A for less than one minute while she left to open the door. Ms. Peterson stated that the facility utilized remotes to open the door automatically from the classroom, but the remotes had been accidentally taken with staff who were gone at that time. Ms. Peterson stated she understood that leaving the infant classroom with two other children present during the time Reporter/Parent A was there did not follow the facility's Notice of Parental Responsibility (NPR) and left the classroom out of staff/child ratios temporarily. Even though Reporter/Parent A stated that there was no staff present in the infant classroom on December 7, 2022, when he arrived to pick up Child A, none of the staff could verify. Director Dekesha Pickett, Caregivers Carol Hollins, Christiana Brotherton, Jessica Grundy, Tamiah McDowell and Ms. Peterson all stated that it was not policy for staff to leave a classroom, even if it was just next door while all the children were sleeping. However, Ms. Peterson stated that it did happen in the past prior to Ms. Pickett becoming the director in October of 2021. Ms. Peterson stated that she had a conversation with all the staff after CI Glover's visit regarding supervision and best practices that they should each be following to ensure children's safety.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The facility shall provide a statement to the Child Care Compliance Section that they will follow their Notice of Parental Responsibility (NPR) or shall submit a new NPR with an updated ratio policy.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

5/2/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

1/26/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

NURNBERG, TONY A