



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

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

DATE OF REPORT
4/15/2022

DVN
001688731

FACILITY NAME

LITTLE SUNSHINE'S PLAYHOUSE AND PRESCHOOL, INC.

FACILITY ADDRESS

2826 W CHESTNUT EXPY

CITY

SPRINGFIELD

ZIP CODE

65802-4632

PHONE NUMBER

(417) 863-1600

COUNTY

GREENE

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

BLOOM, MARIAH B

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(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.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On April 21, 2022 Compliance Inspector (CI) Mariah Bloom and Elaine Cox conducted an unannounced inspection at Little Sunshine's Playhouse and Preschool located at 2826 West Chestnut Expressway, Springfield Missouri in regards to the allegation that a teacher Ms. Emma Smith called a child "stupid boy". The allegation is substantiated based on the following evidence:

On April 21, 2022, caregiver Alexander Taylor stated that he has observed Ms. Emma Smith speak to children in a less than professional tone. He stated if he picked up on her words, the children did too. Child A (3-years-old) stated that Ms. Emma Smith called him a "stupid boy" while on the playground. Child A stated that this made him feel sad.

During the unannounced inspection on April 21, 2022, while completing ratio checks CI Bloom overheard caregiver Ms. Linda Nelson speak to a child in the 2-years-old class, in an abrasive and harsh tone, shouting "No!" at the child.

PROVIDER COMMENTS

It was reported to school leadership that a staff member was not operating within the state or LSP regulations in regard to the treatment of a child. Upon learning of this concern, leadership took swift action. Leadership immediately removed the teacher from the classroom, reported the concern to the abuse and neglect authorities, and suspended the teacher. Though the teacher, members of leadership, and the co-teacher in the classroom stated this did not happen, out of an abundance of caution we held a retrain for all staff members. Regarding the staff member who yelled, "NO" she was immediately terminated for violating LSP policy and state regulations.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding discipline. Specifically, 5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)8 which states: 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. 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

12/1/2022

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

11/9/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

NURNBERG, TONY A