



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF  
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT  
8/26/2022

DVN  
002164152

FACILITY NAME

BABY STEPS ACADEMY II LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

6831 MANCHESTER AVE

CITY

ST LOUIS

ZIP CODE

63143

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 646-1001

COUNTY

ST LOUIS CITY

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

HUDSON, ELIZABETH

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)6.

Firm, positive statements or redirection of behavior shall be used with infants and toddlers.

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

On August 26, 2022, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that on August 25, 2022, Parent A reported to her that Child A had scratches and bruising across her stomach and on both arms. Ms. Tyler stated that she would question Ms. Watson about the injuries as she (Watson) cared for the child yesterday. Ms. Tyler stated she confronted Ms. Watson about Child A's injuries and was not given a reasonable explanation. Ms. Tyler stated that Ms. Watson was released the same day, August 25, 2022. Ms. Tyler stated that she now has concerns regarding the other child in Ms. Watson's care. Ms. Tyler stated that earlier in the day on August 24, 2022, she noticed that Child B had a busted/bruised lip. When Ms. Tyler asked Ms. Watson about the child's lip, Ms. Tyler stated Ms. Watson stated that the child fell. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Liz Hudson has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

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."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)6., which states, "Firm, positive statements or redirection of behavior shall be used with infants and toddlers."

On August 30, 2022, CI Hudson conducted an unannounced inspection at Baby Steps Academy II LLC. CI Hudson individually interviewed Belinda Tyler, Director as well as Caregiver Essence Brown. The information provided by Ms. Tyler and Ms. Brown was consistent with both staff stating that Child B did have a busted lip on August 24, 2022 from tripping over a walker toy according to caregiver Arnasia Watson who was watching Child B at the time. Ms. Tyler stated that she did notice the injury on Child B earlier in the day but Parent B was not notified until the end of the day when Parent B picked up Child B and she did not document the injury. Ms. Brown and Ms. Tyler stated that they did not notice any marks on Child A until the following day, August 25, 2022 when Parent A brought it to their attention. Both staff stated that Ms. Arnasia Watson was caring for Child A and that they never saw her scratch Child A or grab Child A leaving finger print marks but did hear Ms. Watson yelling and screaming at Child A. Ms. Watson was terminated on August 25, 2022. Parent A and Parent B were both interviewed via phone on September 23, 2022 and both explanations of what occurred on August 24, 2022 lined up with what Ms. Tyler and Ms. Brown's statements.

On December 12, 2022, CI Hudson conducted an interview via phone with Arnasia Watson. Ms. Watson admitted to yelling at

the children at times and that she did not report Child B's injury to Ms. Tyler or Parent B. She stated that she was unaware that Child A was injured until Ms. Tyler told her the day after on August 25, 2022. Ms. Watson stated that she did not inflict injury intentionally or accidentally on Child A or Child B.

## CORRECTIVE MEASURES

### CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The facility shall notify all staff members of the violations which were substantiated, and specify the actions to be taken by all staff in order to comply with all violations cited. A copy of the memo, letter, or staff meeting agenda shall be submitted to the Office of Childhood.

### COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

### COMPLETED DATE

6/8/2023

### DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

### DISPOSITION DATE

12/21/2022

### APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L