



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
8/5/2022

DVN
002495429

FACILITY NAME

PRIMROSE SCHOOL OF O'FALLON AT WINGHAVEN

FACILITY ADDRESS

7778 WINGHAVEN BLVD

CITY

O FALLON

ZIP CODE

63368-3601

PHONE NUMBER

(636) 281-1183

COUNTY

ST CHARLES

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

HUDSON, ELIZABETH

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)7.

Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting, or pulling hair shall be prohibited.

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 August 5, 2022, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that Staff member Christine Beary was lining the children up from playing on a splash pad. One child, Child A (2-years-old), was acting up not wanting to get lined up. Christine went over to Child A and popped/tapped him on his bottom. Child A had no marks or injuries. Another staff member saw this happen and alerted directors. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Liz Hudson has found this allegation to be substantiated and the following rules were found to be violated:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)7., which states: "Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting, or pulling hair shall be prohibited."

AND

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."

On August 15, 2022, Compliance Inspector (CI) Liz Hudson conducted an unannounced inspection at Primrose School of O'Fallon at Winhaven. CI Hudson interviewed Heather Mahoney, director and Jackie Rothermich, owner. Both Ms. Mahoney and Ms. Rothermich stated that teacher, Michealy O'Connor reported an incident where teacher Christine Beary "popped" Child A on the bottom which startled Child A. Child A was not listening while the teachers were trying to get the children lined up to go inside. Child A had kicked another child and would not line up. It was reported by Ms. O'Connor that Ms. Beary bent over and "popped" Child A to get his attention after he kicked the other child and told him to get in line.

On August 15, 2022, Compliance Inspector (CI) Liz Hudson conducted an interview with Ms. O'Connor whose statements were consistent with those of Ms. Mahoney and Ms. Rothermich. She stated that Ms. Beary "popped" Child A with the palm of her open hand on his bottom. She stated that it was done with little force and that Child A was not hurt but it did startle Child A.

On August 15, 2022, Compliance Inspector (CI) Liz Hudson conducted an interview with Christine Beary who admitted that she had "popped" Child A on his bottom but that she did not do this to hurt him but rather to just get Child A's attention so that Child A would stop kicking another child. Ms. Beary's version of what occurred was consistent with Ms. O'Connor's statements.

PROVIDER COMMENTS

At Primrose, our number one priority is the health and safety of all children in our school. The Primrose School of O'Fallon at Winghaven self-reported this incident immediately upon being made aware of the situation. The employee was immediately put on a temporary suspension, pending a full investigation. The parents were notified via a phone call from the school's owner walking them through the full situation and the corrective measures taken. The employee continued their suspension out of the classroom, while completing applicable training, both online and in-person, which was required by the Primrose School leadership as a corrective measure to this incident. The health and safety of the students at our school remain our top priority

and we do not take situations like this lightly, as evidenced by the measures we took and continue to take.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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Caregiver Christine Berry shall obtain one clock hour of approved training on AGE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE. Training may be obtained from the Missouri Workshop Calendar. The training calendar can be found at <http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/>. The local Child Care Aware agency may also assist in finding training. The Child Care Aware website can be found at <http://www.childcareaware.org/>. Verification of training completion shall be from the Open Initiative Toolbox report. shall complete one clock training hour on age appropriate discipline.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

11/30/2022

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

10/26/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L