



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE COMPLIANCE**  
**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF**  
**SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

**DATE OF REPORT**  
1/15/2021

**DVN**  
002844631

**FACILITY NAME**

THE LEARNING TREE PRESCHOOL LLC

**FACILITY ADDRESS**

3501 GENE FIELD RD

**CITY**

ST JOSEPH

**ZIP CODE**

64506-1804

**PHONE NUMBER**

(816) 689-0118

**COUNTY**

BUCHANAN

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**

SNODGRASS, PENNY

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(C)(11)

Children shall not be permitted to intimidate or harm others, harm themselves or destroy property.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

Through interviews and observations by Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Penny Snodgrass Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) has determined that this allegation is substantiated.

On January 19, 2021 CCFS Snodgrass conducted an unannounced inspection at this facility. During the inspection interviews were conducted with Director Stacie Simpson and staff members Sarah Aylsworth, Haleigh Law and Makayla Martinez. Additional phone interviews were conducted with Mother of Child A, B, C and E.

During the interviews with the Director Stacie Simpson and staff members Sarah Aylsworth and Haleigh Law they all stated that Child B repeatedly hit Child A in the head with a rattle while Haleigh Law was changing the diaper of Child C and that Haleigh Law couldn't get to Child B to stop him from hitting Child A which left bruising on Child A's forehead. This incident occurred on January 14, 2021 when staff member Haleigh Law was working in the infant classroom caring for 4 infants. Child A is 7 months old and Child B is 11 months old. The director and all staff interviewed stated that because Haleigh was changing the diaper of Child C she could not get to stop Child B quickly but that Haleigh continued to look up from the changing table and ask Child B to stop hitting Child A. All interviewed stated that they didn't have any supervision concerns.

CCFS Snodgrass observed a written summary written by the Director, Stacie Simpson of what she observed on the video recording of the incident that occurred on January 14, 2021 in the infant room with staff member Haleigh Law, Child A and Child B. CCFS Snodgrass observed that between 10:36 - 10:38 AM that Haleigh looks up 6 times from changing the diaper of Child C and sees Child B take the bottle away from Child A and hit Child A 9 times in the head with a rattle and/or a cloth book. Haleigh can be seen telling Child B to stop hitting Child A 4 times before Haleigh is finished changing the diaper and goes and grabs Child B's arm and pulls him away from Child A. CCFS Snodgrass observed the video and agrees with the written summary completed by Stacie.

Because Child B continued to hit Child A on the forehead with a rattle/cloth book and the fact that Haleigh couldn't get to Child B to stop him from hitting Child A for 2 minutes this allowed Child B to hurt Child A and therefore this allegation is substantiated.

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(C)(7)

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

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

Through interviews and observations by Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Penny Snodgrass Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) has determined that this allegation is substantiated.

On January 19, 2021 CCFS Snodgrass conducted an unannounced inspection at this facility. During the inspection interviews were conducted with Director Stacie Simpson and staff members Sarah Aylsworth, Haleigh Law and Makayla Martinez. Additional phone interviews were conducted with Mother of Child A, B, C and E.

During the interviews with the Director Stacie Simpson and staff members Sarah Aylsworth and Haleigh Law they all stated that Child B repeatedly hit Child A in the head with a rattle while Haleigh Law was changing the diaper of Child C. This left bruising on Child A's forehead. This incident occurred on January 14, 2021 when staff member Haleigh Law was working in the infant classroom caring for 4 infants. Child A is 7 months old and Child B is 11 months old. Haleigh Law stated that she grabbed Child B by the arm to stop Child B from hitting Child A. Director Stacie Simpson and staff member Sarah Aylsworth both admitted to observing the camera video from this incident and did observe Haleigh Law grab Child B's arm and move him from Child A in order to stop Child B from hitting Child A. In the interviews it was stated that because Haleigh had a 2 month old in her other arm that didn't have head support that Haleigh couldn't use both arms to move Child B from Child A.

CCFS Snodgrass observed a written summary written by the Director, Stacie Simpson of what she observed on the video recording of the incident that occurred on January 14, 2021 in the infant room with staff member Haleigh Law, Child A and Child B. CCFS Snodgrass observed that between 10:36 - 10:38 AM that Haleigh looks up 6 times from changing the diaper of Child C and sees Child B take the bottle away from Child A and hit Child A 9 times in the head with a rattle and/or a cloth book. Haleigh can be seen telling Child B to stop hitting Child A 4 times before Haleigh is finished changing the diaper and goes and grabs Child B's arm and pulls him away from Child A. CCFS Snodgrass observed the video and agrees with the written summary completed by Stacie.

Because staff member Haleigh Law admitted to grabbing Child B's arm to get Child B away from and to stop hitting Child A in the forehead this allegation is substantiated. Director Stacie Simpson, staff member Sarah Aylsworth and CCFS Snodgrass all observed the video in which Haleigh Law can be seen grabbing Child B's arm as a form of discipline to move Child B away from Child A.

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
All staff and volunteers of The Learning Tree Preschool must obtain one (1) clock hour of training approved by the the Section for Child Care Regulation, on age appropriate discipline. The training must be held by an approved and qualified source, outside of The Learning Tree Preschool LLC network. Training may be obtained from the Missouri Workshop Calendar. The training calendar can be found at <a href="http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/">http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/</a> . Verification of training completion shall be from the Open Initiative Toolbox report	Yes	3/17/2021

**DISPOSITION**  
SUBSTANTIATED

**DISPOSITION DATE**  
1/29/2021

**APPROVING SUPERVISOR**  
NURNBERG, TONY A