



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
11/17/2022

DVN
000177473

FACILITY NAME

LA PETITE ACADEMY, INC.

FACILITY ADDRESS

1714 S ENTERPRISE AVE

CITY

SPRINGFIELD

ZIP CODE

65804-1851

PHONE NUMBER

(417) 883-6665

COUNTY

GREENE

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

MERTZ, CAYLIN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)3.

Only constructive, age-appropriate methods of discipline shall be used to help children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own actions.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On November 17, 2022, the Office of the Childhood received an allegation that a staff pushed a child down and he hit his head. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Caylin Mertz and Compliance Inspector (CI) Heather Radney have found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence and rule violations:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)3 which states "Only constructive, age-appropriate methods of discipline shall be used to help children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own actions."

On November 21, 2022, assistant director C.S. reported that S.P. was too rough with the child and it was a violation of their internal policies. C.S. described the action as a "small shove" which resulted in a dime size bruise on child's head from hitting the plastic cot. When S.P. pushed the child down in an effort for him to cooperate with nap she was not using constructive, age-appropriate methods of discipline. On December 6, 2022, the video recording of this incident was viewed. It appears that S.P. uses more force than necessary to get Child A to lay back down on his cot. The child hits his head on the front of the cot and appears distressed immediately following the incident.

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)3. which states: Only constructive, age-appropriate methods of discipline shall be used to help children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own actions. 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

1/13/2023

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

All staff and volunteers of the facility must obtain one clock hour of training approved by the Office of Childhood, on age appropriate discipline. Training may be obtained from the Missouri Workshop Calendar. The training calendar can be found at <http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/>. Verification of training completion shall be from the Open Initiative Toolbox report.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

2/14/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

1/6/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

NURNBERG, TONY A