



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

DATE OF REPORT
12/14/2023

DVN
001518987

FACILITY NAME

BIG STEPS EARLY LEARNING CENTER, INC.

FACILITY ADDRESS

3309 N BROWN STATION RD

CITY

COLUMBIA

ZIP CODE

65202

PHONE NUMBER

(573) 474-3292

COUNTY

BOONE

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

HONEA, MICHELLE J

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.082(6)(A)7.

Areas under and around outdoor equipment shall have continuous maintenance to ensure that the material remains in place and retains its cushioning properties. The resilient material shall be supplemented immediately or replaced as needed.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Michelle Honea conducted an investigation of the allegation that there is not enough mulch to provide a safe fall zone under any of the equipment outside. The allegation is substantiated based on the following information:

5 CSR 25-500.082(6)(A)7., which states: "Areas under and around outdoor equipment shall have continuous maintenance to ensure that the material remains in place and retains its cushioning properties. The resilient material shall be supplemented immediately or replaced as needed."

On December 19, 2023, CI Honea observed the outdoor play area to not have resilient surface under any of the equipment from which children could fall. The mulch was gathered down and outside the perimeter of the fence.

On December 19, 2023, director Amie Teel stated that she has the mulch replenished two times a year, however has not taken the time this fall to replenish the mulch. When it rains the mulch gets packed down or washed down and out of the fence.

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.082(2)(A)6.

Walls, ceilings and floors shall be finished with material which can be cleaned easily and shall be free of splinters, cracks and chipping paint. Floor covering shall be in good condition. Lead-free paint shall be used for all painted surfaces.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On December 14, 2023, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that: There is peeling paint in almost every room that is chipping for the children to eat. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Michelle Honea has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-500.082(2)(A)6: which states, "Walls, ceilings and floors shall be finished with material which can be cleaned easily and shall be free of splinters, cracks and chipping paint. Floor covering shall be in good condition. Lead-free paint shall be used for all painted surfaces."

On December 19, 2023, CI Honea conducted an unannounced inspection to the facility and interviewed director Amie Teel who provided the following information. Amie Teel said at the beginning of the year the facility had been completely repainted. Amie Teel stated that the doors and windows are just from wear and tear of the children and caregivers. She was not aware the cabinet was so bad but did know it needed work. Amie Teel stated that she did not know there was a hole in the wall in the preschool playroom. She will have the cabinets redone and the hole repaired.

On December 19, 2023, CI Honea observed that each room had wear and tear around doors and windows. CI Honea observed that the paint in those areas was not peeling that would cause children to eat the paint. CI Honea did observe the cabinet area in the toddler room to have the laminate on the cabinets to be peeling in a way that children could peel that off and possibly eat it.

CI Honea observed one of the preschool playrooms to have a hole in the sheet rock wall that was accessible to the children.

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

2/21/2024

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

2/9/2024

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L