



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
5/26/2022

DVN
002105224

FACILITY NAME

KIDSWORLD NORTH, L.L.C.

FACILITY ADDRESS

9833 HALLS FERRY

CITY

ST LOUIS

ZIP CODE

63136

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 867-2333

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

FYFE, IAN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

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 May 26, 2022, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that Caregiver Christine Misuraca told Child A that she was going to cut Child A's tongue off. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)8., which states the following: "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 May 27, 2022, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe conducted an unannounced inspection at Kids World North LLC, and interviewed Director Felicia Cook, Caregiver Tiffany Hardwick, and Caregiver Christine Misuraca. Ms. Cook and Ms. Hardwick, who were present for the reported incident, provided consistent and similar details regarding the incident. Parent A (parent of Child A) arrived to the facility on May 25, 2022, with Child A. Ms. Misuraca approached Parent A and Child A and stated that she was going to have to cut Child A's tongue off if Child A continued sticking it out at her. Ms. Cook stated that Ms. Misuraca's statement was similar to, "if [Child A] keeps sticking their tongue out at me, I'm going to cut it off." Ms. Hardwick stated that Ms. Misuraca's statement was similar to, "If [Child A] comes home not being able to talk, it's because I cut their tongue off for sticking it out at me." The statement made by Ms. Misuraca was intended to be a joke towards Parent A, however this statement upset Parent A. Parent A returned to the facility on May 26, 2022, and informed facility staff that the Ms. Misuraca's statement was inappropriate. Child A was present for and heard the comment made by Ms. Misuraca.

After conducting interviews with Ms. Cook, Ms. Hardwick, and Ms. Misuraca, CI Fyfe conducted an interview with Child A (3-years-old). Child A informed CI Fyfe that their teacher, Ms. Chris [Misuraca], is going to cut their tongue off, cut their legs off, cut their head off, cut their eyes out, and make them dead. While making these statements to CI Fyfe, Child A became frantic. Ms. Misuraca's statement, previously described in CI Fyfe's interviews with facility staff, appears to have had an effect on Child A's mental and emotional wellbeing. This observation was evidenced by Child A's observable emotions during CI Fyfe's interview with Child A.

On June 3, 2022, and on June 6, 2022, CI Fyfe attempted to conduct an interview with Parent A. CI Fyfe was ultimately unable to make contact with Parent A.

The individual who made the complaint with the OOC was interviewed by CI Fyfe but did not provide additional information regarding the incident.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the center's policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding discipline and communication with parent(s). The facility must provide the Child Care Compliance Section with a

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

12/9/2022

statement, signed by all staff members (paid employees and paid/unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

7/24/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L