



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

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

DATE OF REPORT

2/6/2023

DVN

002354591

FACILITY NAME

CLAYTON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

FACILITY ADDRESS

1 OAK KNOLL PARK

CITY

CLAYTON

ZIP CODE

63105-3009

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 725-2325

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

GRAHAM, JESSICA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)1.

Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision.

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)2.

A caregiver personally shall admit each child upon arrival and personally shall dismiss each child upon departure . Children shall be dismissed only to the parent(s) , guardian, legal custodian, or to individuals approved by the parent(s) , guardian, or legal custodian.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Jessica Graham conducted an investigation of the allegation that on February 2, 2023, at about 5:30pm, a patron from the park brought Child A (5-years-old) to the facility. Child A was was left unattended, outside at the nearby park, for 30 minutes. The allegation is substantiated based on the following information:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)1. which states: "Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)2. which states: "A caregiver personally shall admit each child upon arrival and personally shall dismiss each child upon departure. Children shall be dismissed only to the parent(s), guardian, legal custodian, or to individuals approved by the parent(s), guardian, or legal custodian."

On February 7, 2023, director Laura Cortner stated that on February 2, 2023, Child A was found by another park patron at the nearby park playground, which the facility uses every day, about twice a day. The lady that found Child A at the park, brought Child A to the child care facility to ask if Child A belonged there . She looked at the check out system and assumed that Parent A had already picked up Child A because Child A was marked out on the Tadpoles app . However, Ms. Shweta told her that a child had said Child A's parent came to get him so she marked Child A out on the app . That was around 5:30pm when the lady was at the door with Child A and Child A was clocked out on the Tadpoles app at 5:02pm by Ms. Shweta. Ms. Shweta told her that she counted 11 children as they were going outside but did not count the children as they came back inside. Ms. Shweta told her that she noticed that Child A was not in the classroom and asked the kids if they knew where Child A was and they said that someone had clocked him out.

On February 7, 2023, Child A (5-years-old) stated that some kids found him playing on the playground but his teachers had gone inside. He didn't see the class outside and he was by himself.

On February 7, 2023, CI Graham observed the nearby park playground that Child A was found on the evening of February 2, 2023. This park playground is located approximately 85 feet from the child care facility. To get to the space, the children must walk in front of the building and across a driveway. The space is operated by Clayton City Park, is fenced on all sides, and is open and accessible to the public at any time. Other hazards within the park include:

- A pond, which was approximately 500 feet from the park playground.
- Two parking lots, which were approximately 100 feet from the park playground.
- Big Bend Boulevard, a high traffic 4-lane road, with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour, which was approximately 250 feet from the park playground.
- Clayton Road, a high traffic 4-lane road, with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour, which was approximately 700 feet from the

park playground.

On February 7, 2023, CI Graham observed a written statement from caregiver Shweta Sarraf noting:

"We were getting ready to go out at around 4.15 and i count them they were 11 kids with me. While coming back i count them again but when i came inside the class I was missing [Child A]. i ask kids where is [Child A] some kids told me that his mom pick him up and some told me his dad came to pick him up. I asked my coworker (Tajh) who was working with me She said me i don't know. I went to his cubby to look if he has his stuff or not but his stuff was not there so I thought he left . I was thinking to tell me director but kids where not listening so i got busy with them."

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

3/10/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

2/24/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L