



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
11/4/2021

DVN
002549611

FACILITY NAME

DELTA AREA ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CORPORATION

FACILITY ADDRESS

918 COMPRESS RD

CITY

KENNETT

ZIP CODE

63857

PHONE NUMBER

(573) 717-1193

COUNTY

DUNKLIN

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

GRAHAM, JESSICA

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.

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)7.

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

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

Compliance Inspector (CI) Jessica Graham investigated the allegation that teachers grab and drag children. Chasity Russell forced a 2 year old into a chair and held him there; forced a child onto the floor, pinned him down, and wiped his mouth because he used bad words; and bear hugs 2 year old's so they cannot leave the safe spot. There is video of Chasity Russell pushing a child down on the playground. The allegation is substantiated based on the following 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."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)8. which states: "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."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)7. which states, "Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting, or pulling hair shall be prohibited."

On November 9, 2021, caregiver Rebekah Richardson stated that Child A (2-years-old) was in her class, has a behavior plan, and will not listen. She has to get stern with Child A to get him to listen. She has caught herself grabbing him by one arm when he is running. Ms. Chasity did wipe Child A's mouth off with a wet rag because he said a cuss word. Child C (2-years-old) had a biting problem and the therapist he was seeing said to use a wet rag on his mouth and so Ms. Chasity saw her doing that and thought that it was okay to do on the other kids. They would say to the kids "we are wiping the bad words away" and wipe their mouth with a rag. If the kids are "ugly" on the playground, teachers will make the kids sit by them or between their legs, not physically holding them there, but until they calm down and then they go play. There is a possibility that she was screaming at a child and it was probably Child A.

On November 9, 2021, caregiver Chasity Russell stated that she has worked with Ms. Rebekah for about two months. She was with Child A when he said a bad word; he called her a "bitch" and the "nigger" word. She took Child A to the classroom, turned on the faucet and told him not to use those words. Child A fell to the ground so she got a paper towel and wiped his mouth with it. She has seen Ms. Rebekah do this with Child C before for using bad words. The therapist for Child C came up with this technique for Child C. She has seen Ms. Rebekah grab the kids by the arm if she is frustrated. She has put Child C in between her legs and do a "monkey hold" on him. She will sit Child C on the floor and hold his arms and legs and will cross her legs around him.

On November 9, 2021, caregiver Jerrica Jefferson stated that she has kicked a cot with a child on it to move the cot , but that is not something that she typically does.

On November 9, 2021, CI Graham viewed video footage from October 25, 2021 and observed the following in Classroom D:
10:03:34

- A child is seen climbing on the table.
- Ms. Jerrica yells at the child and then walks over and gets him off the table and puts him on the ground .
- Ms. Jordan yells across the room at the children as they are playing (inaudible) and Ms. Jerrica walks over to a child.
- Ms. Jerrica tells the child to "get up" and then grabs the child under one arm and carries her to the table.
- The child is crying and Ms. Jerrica is looking at the child's mouth.
- Ms. Jerrica walks over to the book area and picks a child up by the arms off the couch and drops the child to the ground ; this child is crying.
- Ms. Jerrica grabs another child by the arms and lifts the child off the ground , leads them by one arm, stops and grabs another child by the arm and walks them both to the table.
- Ms. Jerrica is telling everyone to sit down at the table.
- 10:04:52
- Ms. Jerrica grabs one child that is crawling under the easel, by the ankle and pulls the child out and carries them to the table.
- Ms. Jerrica places the child in a chair forcefully.
- 10:05:18
- Ms. Jerrica yells "get down" to a child that is on the table.
- 10:05:27
- Ms. Jerrica goes to the table, grabs a child from the table by the arm and yells "how many times do I have to tell you that is not safe".
- Ms. Jerrica pulls the child's chair out, grabs the child by the hand and walks her off camera .
- Ms. Jerrica goes back to the table and yells "don't touch it" to a child that is reaching for a bib on the table.
- A child gets up from the table and Ms. Jerrica grabs the child by the hand and yells "sit down".
- 10:08:03
- Ms. Jerrica brings the child back that she took off camera .

On November 9, 2021, CI Graham viewed video footage from November 2, 2021 and observed the following in Classroom C:
8:30:25

- Child B slaps something out of Ms. Rebekah's hand.
- Ms. Rebekah grabs Child B by the ground and then he falls to the ground.
- Ms. Rebekah picked Child B up by the right arm and takes Child B over to the item that he knocked out of her hand and makes him pick it up.
- Ms. Rebekah says "Your not going to hit me, no" to Child B.
- 8:31:25
- Ms. Rebekah yells at Child A "I'm not telling you again, set up against the wall. Now your going to listen to me." then tells him to set back against the wall.
- 8:32:55
- Child A falls to the ground while sitting on the carpet. Ms. Rebekah grabs Child A by the arm and scoots him back against the wall.
- 8:55:25
- Child A put something in his mouth.
- Ms. Chasity lunges towards him to get it away from him.
- Ms. Chasity grabs it out of his hand and Child A gets upset and struggles with Ms. Chasity.
- Ms. Chasity pushes Child A away from her after getting the item from his hand .
- 8:55:41
- Ms. Rebekah grabs Child A by the wrist and rushes him to the corner (off camera).
- Ms. Rebekah says to Child A "don't you say that again, you understand me".
- Child A is crying.
- Child A says off camera and Ms. Rebekah walks back over by the group.
- 8:57:27
- Ms. Rebekah walks over to Child A and asks him if he is done and if he is going to say those words again .
- Ms. Rebekah tells Child A to go sit with the group.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The facility shall have all staff members (paid employees and paid/unpaid volunteers) obtain one clock hour of approved training on AGE APPROPRIATE

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

9/15/2022

DISCIPLINE. Training may be obtained from the Missouri Workshop training calendar that can be found at http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/. The local Child Care Aware agency may also assist in finding training. The Child Care Aware website can be found at http://www.childcareaware.org/. Verification of training completion shall be from the Open Initiative Toolbox report.			
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 licensing violations cited. A copy of the memo, letter, or staff meeting agenda(s) shall be submitted to the Office of Childhood.		COMPLETED (Y/N) Yes	COMPLETED DATE 9/15/2022
CORRECTIVE MEASURE All staff members (paid employees or unpaid volunteers) must take the 1.0 clock hour online training course titled, "Making a Difference: Protecting Health and Keeping Children Safe" available at https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care/training-info. Verification of attendance shall be through the Toolbox report.		COMPLETED (Y/N) Yes	COMPLETED DATE 9/15/2022
DISPOSITION SUBSTANTIATED		DISPOSITION DATE 8/4/2022	
APPROVING SUPERVISOR CHRISCO, MARLA L			