



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT

4/25/2023

DVN

002984981

FACILITY NAME

HUCKLEBERRY'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

707 S HEMPHILL ST

CITY

CRANE

ZIP CODE

65633-9161

PHONE NUMBER

(417) 983-5650

COUNTY

STONE

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

MERTZ, CAYLIN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

RSMo 210.211.1

It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a child-care facility for children, or to advertise or hold himself or herself out as being able to perform any of the services as defined in section 210.201, without having in effect a written license granted by the department of elementary and secondary education.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On April 25, 2023, the Office of Childhood received a report alleging that the facility was providing care for seven children on 4/24/23 and there were at least 10 children enrolled in this unlicensed program. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Caylin Mertz has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence and rule violations:

RSMo 210.211.1 which states "It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a child-care facility for children, or to advertise or hold himself or herself out as being able to perform any of the services as defined in section 210.201, without having in effect a written license granted by the department of health and senior services ."

On April 27, 2023, Compliance Inspector (CI) Caylin Mertz conducted an unannounced inspection at the facility. Nine children were observed at the facility. LLC Member Nichol Woodward stated she has 14 children enrolled in her program. She reports she is pursuing licensure. Nichol provided identifying information for the 14 children enrolled in the program. Based on the information provided there is sufficient evidence to conclude that Huckleberry Early Learning Center is providing illegal childcare .

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The provider must immediately reduce to six or fewer children with a maximum of three children under 24 months in care.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

10/18/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

8/28/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

FOX, ROMENA