



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

**DATE OF REPORT**  
3/12/2021

**DVN**  
000180503

**FACILITY NAME**

MONTESSORI LEARNING CENTER

**FACILITY ADDRESS**

1045 UNION RD

**CITY**

ST LOUIS

**ZIP CODE**

63123-6648

**PHONE NUMBER**

(314) 487-5448

**COUNTY**

ST LOUIS

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**

WILMESHER, LAURA

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.112 (1)

The following staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times.

19 CSR 30-62.112 (1)(A)

Birth Through Two (2) Years. Groups composed of mixed ages through two (2)- years shall have no less than one (1) adult to four (4) children, with no more than eight (8) children in a group.

19 CSR 30-62.112 (1)(E)

Mixed Age Groups Two Years (2) and Up. Groups composed of mixed ages of children two (2) years of age and older shall have no less than one (1) adult to ten (10) children with a maximum of four (4) two (2)-year olds. When there are more than four (4) two (2)-year olds in a mixed group, the staff/child ratio shall be no less than one (1) adult to eight (8) children.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Laura Wilmesher conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that the facility is over staff/child ratios. After conducting the investigation, CCFS Wilmesher finds this allegation is substantiated. This conclusion is based on the following evidence of licensing rule violations which occurred at the facility:

19 CSR 30-62.112 (1)(A) which states: "[The following staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times.] Birth Through Two (2) Years. Groups composed of mixed ages through two (2)- years shall have no less than one (1) adult to four (4) children, with no more than eight (8) children in a group."

AND

19 CSR 30-62.112 (1)(E) which states: "[The following staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times.] Mixed Age Groups Two Years (2) and Up. Groups composed of mixed ages of children two (2) years of age and older shall have no less than one (1) adult to ten (10) children with a maximum of four (4) two (2)-year olds. When there are more than four (4) two (2)-year olds in a mixed group, the staff/child ratio shall be no less than one (1) adult to eight (8) children."

On March 17, 2021, CCFS Wilmesher conducted interviews with owner, Christine Strzembosz, and caregiver Madelynn Turner. Ms. Christine stated the teachers would make the issues with ratio by bringing the two-year-olds into the toddler rooms, and she and director, Betty Smith, would tell them to separate. Ms. Madelynn stated she's been over ratio in the toddler room, and that when she first started, in August 2020, and she only worked 2-6 PM in the infant room, and she had four infants and two toddlers. Ms. Madelynn stated she was also over ratio in the toddler room on Monday, March 15, 2021, when she had five one-year-olds in her room all day by herself.

On March 24, 2021, CCFS Wilmesher and Child Care Supervisor (CCS) Angela Clark conducted an unannounced visit to the facility and observed Ms. Betty with thirteen children, age 3-6 years old in the preschool classroom.

On March 24, 2021, CCFS Wilmesher conducted interviews with caregivers Carol Dix and Kay Finder, and director, Betty Smith. Ms. Carol stated if someone had a doctor appointment, someone would be left out of ratio for a little bit, and that this happens in the preschool classrooms. Ms. Kay stated sometimes teachers leave the other person out of ratio if they have to use the bathroom, and if they have to leave to go get cleaning supplies or snacks for the children from the kitchen. Ms. Betty stated both of the two year old teachers quit on March 23, 2021, and that's they she was out of ratio this day.

On May 10, 2021, CCFS Wilmesher conducted an interview with reporter, Allyson Turner who stated there were 6-8 toddlers and a lot of times it would be one teacher with them, because they staggered Ms. Kay and Ms. Madelynn's hours, and that preschool classrooms would have 10-15 children to one teacher with just Ms. Betty.

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

<b>CORRECTIVE MEASURE</b>	<b>COMPLETED (Y/N)</b>	<b>COMPLETED DATE</b>
Signs shall be posted at all entrances of the rooms displaying the required staff/child ratios.	Yes	1/27/2022

<b>DISPOSITION</b>	<b>DISPOSITION DATE</b>
SUBSTANTIATED	5/11/2021

**APPROVING SUPERVISOR**  
CLARK, ANGELA