



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

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

**DATE OF REPORT**  
12/26/2019

**DVN**  
002297474

**FACILITY NAME**  
THE LEARNING TREE

**FACILITY ADDRESS**  
101 PLAZA DR

**CITY**  
JOPLIN

**ZIP CODE**  
64804-3864

**PHONE NUMBER**  
(417) 627-9112

**COUNTY**  
NEWTON

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**  
KREITZER, PENNY

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.082 (2)(A)(9)

The facility shall be clean at all times and free of dirt, insects, spiders, rodents or other pests.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

The Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) determined this allegation is substantiated based on interviews conducted with Vilma Ovalle (former caregiver), Mandi Poulton (caregiver) and based on observations made by CCFS Penny Kreitzer and Child Care Supervisor (CCS) Leah White. Ms. Ovalle reported she saw ants in the one year old room by the tables and by the sink. Ms. Poulton stated there have been ants in the toddler sink since she began working at the facility two months ago. Ms. Poulton stated she cleans out the sink daily when she first arrives and when she leaves. CCFS Kreitzer and CCS White observed ants on the toddler sink, and on the diaper supply cabinet above the toddler sink. Dirt/debris was also observed to have been swept into the corner of the toddler room and the dirty broom was observed to be within reach of the children. CCFS Kreitzer and CCS White observed resilient squares in the toddler room which appeared stained and dirty.

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

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The facility shall provide the cleaning schedule/plan for the toddler room.

**COMPLETED (Y/N)**

Yes

**COMPLETED DATE**

3/18/2020

**CORRECTIVE MEASURE**

The facility shall provide documentation to SCCR of the measures taken to rid the facility, and specifically the toddler room, of ants.

**COMPLETED (Y/N)**

Yes

**COMPLETED DATE**

3/17/2020

**DISPOSITION**

SUBSTANTIATED

**DISPOSITION DATE**

2/11/2020

**APPROVING SUPERVISOR**

WHITE, LEAH