



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

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

**DATE OF REPORT**

6/23/2021

**DVN**

000206459

**FACILITY NAME**

LA PETITE ACADEMY, INC.

**FACILITY ADDRESS**

1000 BROOKWOOD CTR

**CITY**

FENTON

**ZIP CODE**

63026

**PHONE NUMBER**

(636) 343-2115

**COUNTY**

ST LOUIS

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**

WILMESHER, LAURA

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(A)(3)

Caregivers shall provide frequent, direct contact so children are not left unobserved on the premises.

19 CSR 30-62.082 (1)(C)

Children shall have no access to areas not approved for child care.

19 CSR 30-62.082 (6)(A)(3)

Adult supervision shall be provided at all times when children are outside. For children three (3) years of age and above, staff/child ratios may be one and one-half (1 1/2) times the indoor staff/child ratios. The required indoor staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Laura Wilmesher conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that on Monday, June 21, 2021, at approximately 4:45 PM, two children unlatched the playground gate and left the playground. 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 30-62.182 (1)(A)(3) which states: "Caregivers shall provide frequent, direct contact so children are not left unobserved on the premises."

AND

19 CSR 30-62.082 (1)(C) which states: "Children shall have no access to areas not approved for child care."

AND

19 CSR 30-62.082 (6)(A)(3) which states: "Adult supervision shall be provided at all times when children are outside. For children three (3) years of age and above, staff/child ratios may be one and one-half (1 1/2) times the indoor staff/child ratios. The required indoor staff/child ratios shall be maintained on the premises at all times."

On June 25, 2021, CCFS Wilmesher interviewed several staff members and Child A at the facility. Director, Myranda Gravitt, stated Child A (age four), Child B (age two), and Child C (age eight) went outside the gate when a child unlatched the gate. Ms. Myranda stated she and district manager, Brian Schubert, reviewed the camera footage, and observed that the children were outside the fenced area for 1-2 minutes and never left the grassy area. Ms. Myranda stated Ms. Emma was the only teacher present when the incident happened.

Caregiver Taylor Pluff stated Parent A, parent of Child A, approached her and said that the children were running around outside the fenced play space and he had to "corral them back inside the gate." Ms. Taylor stated she then told Ms. Myranda what Parent A had witnessed, and that Ms. Emma told her the kids were "being crazy that day" and opened the gate.

Caregiver Emma Jalil stated Child C opened the gate and walked out, and a few seconds later Parent A told her that the gate was open. Ms. Emma stated Child A and Child C walked outside the gate, and that she hadn't seen Child C open the gate and that Child A and Child C only got a few feet outside the gate. Ms. Emma stated she didn't see Child B outside the gate. Ms. Emma stated she should have supervised the children better and walked around the playground.

Child A stated Ms. Emma had her head down and wasn't looking at the kids, so Child B and Child C went out the gate, and

Parent A got them and made them go back inside the gate .

District manager, Brian Schubert, at first believed that he could obtain a copy of the video footage for CCFS Wilmesher to review, but later stated that the video footage was no longer available due to being over five days from the time that the incident occurred. According to Mr. Brian, the children were outside the fenced area for about two minutes.

CCFS Wilmesher also received a copy of incident reports from June 21, 2021, for Child A, Child B, and Child C, which all state that the gate was opened and the children went outside the gate of the fenced play space.

On July 26, 2021, CCFS Wilmesher interviewed Parent A who stated when he arrived to the facility on June 21, 2021, he was walking across the parking lot when he noticed the gate was open and children were congregated by the gate. Parent A stated Child A was by the gate and there were two other children outside the gate , including Child C. Parent A stated Ms. Emma was looking down and was unaware that the gate was open. Parent A stated the children were not in the parking lot and were in the grassy area just outside the fenced area.

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

<b>CORRECTIVE MEASURE</b>	<b>COMPLETED (Y/N)</b>	<b>COMPLETED DATE</b>
All staff and volunteers must obtain one (2) clock hours on supervision. The training must be held by an approved and qualified source, outside of the La Petite Academy, Inc. network. Training may be obtained from the Missouri Workshop Calendar. The training calendar can be found at <a href="http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/">http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/</a> . Verification of training completion shall be from the Open Initiative Toolbox report.	Yes	9/27/2021

<b>CORRECTIVE MEASURE</b>	<b>COMPLETED (Y/N)</b>	<b>COMPLETED DATE</b>
The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the center's policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding supervision. The facility must provide the Section for Child Care Regulation with a statement, signed by all staff members (paid employees and paid/unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.	Yes	9/30/2021

<b>DISPOSITION</b>	<b>DISPOSITION DATE</b>
SUBSTANTIATED	7/30/2021

<b>APPROVING SUPERVISOR</b>
CLARK, ANGELA