



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
3/17/2022

DVN
000681481

FACILITY NAME

OZARKS AREA COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION

FACILITY ADDRESS

915 N ASH ST

CITY

BUFFALO

ZIP CODE

65622

PHONE NUMBER

(417) 345-1522

COUNTY

DALLAS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

BLOOM, MARIAH B

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)2.

Expectations for a child's behavior shall be appropriate for the developmental level of that child.

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) Mariah Bloom and Compliance Inspection Supervisor (CIS) Tony Nurnberg conducted an unannounced investigation of the allegation that Ms. Poelma laid across Child A while trying to keep them on the cot. The allegation is substantiated based on the following evidence:

On March 22, 2022 Ms. Poelma admitted to laying across Child A's cot, in an effort to keep him on the cot and calm him down. Three teachers were interviewed and collaborate this account. Two teacher's noted the child was screaming "get off of me" and noted that the child was in distress.

Ms. Minor noted that Ms. Poelma tucked the child into her while laying over Child A with her body. Ms. Minor stated that Child A appeared to be distressed, and stated that it sounded like the child could not breath.

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)2.

Expectations for a child's behavior shall be appropriate for the developmental level of that child.

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) Mariah Bloom and Compliance Inspection Supervisor (CIS) Tony Nurnberg conducted an unannounced investigation of the allegation that Ms. Poelma laid across Child B while trying to keep him in her lap and on the cot. The allegation is substantiated based on the following evidence:

On March 22, 2022 Ms. Poelma admitted to laying across Child B while he was in his cot. Ms. Poelma also stated that she placed the child across her lap. A teacher collaborates this event and stated that Ms. Poelma held the child on her lap while he was kicking arms and flailing. This same teacher Ms. Minor also stated that Ms. Poelma did so aggressively. Ms. Minor also stated that while Ms. Poelma was laying across the cot, her weight was on Child B.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding discipline. The facility must provide the Office of Childhood with a statement, signed by all staff members (including unpaid volunteers) to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.		COMPLETED (Y/N) Yes	COMPLETED DATE 11/3/2022
DISPOSITION SUBSTANTIATED		DISPOSITION DATE 10/5/2022	
APPROVING SUPERVISOR NURNBERG, TONY A			