



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
7/20/2023

DVN
002841152

FACILITY NAME

LITTLE DREAMERS DAYCARE

FACILITY ADDRESS

2210 S BUSINESS 54

CITY

ELDON

ZIP CODE

65026-1788

PHONE NUMBER

(573) 557-2340

COUNTY

MILLER

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

MERTZ, CAYLIN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)3.

Only constructive, age-appropriate methods of discipline shall be used to help children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own actions.

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)9.

Punishment or threat of punishment shall not be associated with food, rest, or toilet training.

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(A)

Child care personnel shall be of good character and intent and shall be qualified to provide care conducive to the welfare of children.

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(B)

Child care personnel shall cooperate with the department.

5 CSR 25-500.222(6)

Daily staff and volunteer attendance records shall be maintained and kept on file a minimum of one (1) year.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On July 20, 2023, the Office of Childhood received a report alleging caregivers are screaming at children, spanking children, grabbing children by the arm and dragging them, and threatening children that if they do not nap, their parents will not pick them up. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Caylin Mertz has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence and rule violations:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)7 which states "Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting, or pulling hair shall be prohibited."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(C)9 which states "Punishment or threat of punishment shall not be associated with food, rest, or toilet training."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182 (1)(C) 3 which states "Only constructive, age-appropriate methods of discipline shall be used to help children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own actions."

On July 21, 2023, CI Caylin Mertz conducted an unannounced inspection at the facility. A walkthrough of the facility was also conducted. CI Mertz interviewed Director Ashleigh Dial, Caregiver Erin Dobbs, Caregiver Bethany Duba, Caregiver Courtney Woods, and Child A, Child B, Child C, Child D, Child E, Child F, Child G, Child H, Child I, Child J, Child K, Child L, Child M, and Child N. Initially Director Dial and all caregivers denied that Ashleigh spans children in the facility. After 14 children were interviewed and eight disclosed witnessing or being spanked themselves; Director Dial admitted to having spanked Child D (3

years old) and Child B (3 years old) as they are her nieces. Director Dial stated she was given permission to do so by the children's parents. Caregivers Dobbs and Duba also admitted to being aware that Ashleigh spanked her nieces. When asked why they did not admit that when initially interviewed, they stated they were told by Director Dial that they could share the information after their initial interviews. Child F (5 years old) and Child G (3 years old) both indicated that Ms. Ashleigh spanks their butts with her hand. Child F stated this occurs at nap time. Child A (3 years old) also stated that children are spanked at nap time, he stated this occurs if children do not go to sleep. Child J (5 years old) stated Ms. Ashleigh spanks everyones butts if they don't go to sleep.

Spanking is expressly prohibited as is any punishment related to rest. It is not age appropriate or constructive to spank children who are unwilling or unable to nap during rest time.

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(A) which states "Child care personnel shall be of good character and intent and shall be qualified to provide care conducive to the welfare of children."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(B) which states "Child care personnel shall cooperate with the department."

During interviews on July 21, 2023, Caregiver Erin Dobbs, Caregiver Bethany Duba, and Director Ashleigh Dial admitted to being dishonest with CI Mertz during initial interviews. Caregivers Duba and Dobbs stated they were given permission to share the truth with CI Mertz after initial interviews. Director Dial admitted that being dishonest in interviews makes her appear deceitful. Being dishonest with the department is not of good character and intent.

5 CSR 25-500.222(6) which states "Daily staff and volunteer attendance records shall be maintained and kept on file a minimum of one (1) year."

On September 11, 2023 Director Ashleigh Dial indicated prior to this investigation she did not keep an attendance record for her hours.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
The facility shall notify all staff members of the violations which were substantiated, and specify the actions to be taken by all staff in order to comply with all licensing violations cited. A copy of the memo, letter, or staff meeting agenda shall be submitted to the Office of Childhood.	Yes	11/22/2023

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
The facility is hereby placed on close supervision for a period of six months.	Yes	11/22/2023

DISPOSITION	DISPOSITION DATE
SUBSTANTIATED	11/20/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR
FOX, ROMENA