



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
9/14/2022

DVN
001518987

FACILITY NAME

BIG STEPS EARLY LEARNING CENTER, INC.

FACILITY ADDRESS

3309 N BROWN STATION RD

CITY

COLUMBIA

ZIP CODE

65202

PHONE NUMBER

(573) 474-3292

COUNTY

BOONE

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

FYFE, IAN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)1.

Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision.

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

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

5 CSR 25-500.082(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

On September 14, 2022, the Office of Childhood OOC received an allegation that on May 24, 2019, Child A (5-years-old at the time of the incident) was left outside, unattended for four minutes, until another parent driving by the center noticed him by himself on the swings outside. Parent A was told that Ms. Jasmine did not do a count. Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe conducted an investigation and determined the allegation to be substantiated based on the following information:

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)1. which states: "Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)3. which states: "Caregivers shall provide frequent, direct contact so children are not left unobserved on the premises."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.082(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 September 16, 2022, caregiver Candace Adkins stated that there is not currently anyone else besides her at the center that would have any knowledge of the 2019 incident. In 2019, Child A was swinging on the playground after the rest of their class and teachers went inside. A parent, not related to Child A, called the facility and informed them that Child A was still outside, alone.

On September 20, 2022, Director Amie Teel stated that she was not present at the facility on the day of the 2019 incident, but is familiar with the incident and Child A. She was at home when she received a phone call from a parent who informed her that he observed Child A left outside, alone. Child A was only left unsupervised that one time, and was outside for approximately five to ten minutes. She believes that the staff member who had Child A in their care at the time was Jasmine Guerrero, who was terminated due to this incident.

On September 26, 2022, Parent A (parent of Child A) stated that on May 24, 2019, upon arrival to pick up Child A, she was informed by Ms. Teel that Child A had been left outside on the playground. She does not recall receiving a phone call or any other form of notification prior to arriving to the facility for pick up. She was told that another parent observed Child A on the playground and then alerted staff. She was informed by Ms. Teel that the staff member that had care of Child A at that time failed to do a head count prior to bringing the children inside. After the incident, Ms. Jasmine quit so there wasn't much disciplinary action that could be taken against the staff member.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES**CORRECTIVE MEASURE**

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.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

12/20/2022

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

10/14/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L