



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
2/7/2022

DVN
002738363

FACILITY NAME

LITTLE LEARNERS OF ST. PETERS

FACILITY ADDRESS

605 S CHURCH ST

CITY

ST PETERS

ZIP CODE

63376-2095

PHONE NUMBER

(636) 397-9991

COUNTY

ST CHARLES

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

SPAULDING, STEPHANIE

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.132(6)

A child who has a special physical, developmental, or behavioral need shall have on file an individualized plan for specialized care from a professionally qualified source.

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(E)

Caregivers shall have knowledge of the needs of children and shall be sensitive to the capabilities, interests, and problems of children in care.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On February 9, 2022, compliance inspector (CI) Spaulding investigated an allegation that Ms. Candice grabbed Child A's (age 5) arm. Child A then tried to push/hit her. Then she picks Child A up off the ground by his arm. Ms. Candice states that Child A tried to drop to ground and that is why Child A's feet were off the ground and she was just trying to pick Child A up. Ms. Candice took her other hand and moved both hands up under Child A's armpits and walks out of view carrying Child A. Based on interviews with staff of Little Learners of St. Peters and observation of video footage regarding the incident, there wasn't enough evidence to show caregiver Candice Wester used inappropriate discipline with Child A, however the following rules were found to be violated during the investigation regarding Child A.

5 CSR 25-500.132(6) - A child who has a special physical, developmental, or behavioral need shall have on file an individualized plan for specialized care from a professionally qualified source.

AND

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(E) - Caregivers shall have knowledge of the needs of children and shall be sensitive to the capabilities, interests, and problems of children in care.

On February 09, 2022, CI Spaulding conducted interviews with director Kim Healey, and caregivers Candice Wester, and Samantha Morfin which all stated that Child A has behaviors and has special needs but that they did not have a specialized care plan on file for Child A to know how to address these behaviors. Ms. Candice stated that she only grabbed Child A's arm to get him to turn around and talk to her because he was being disruptive and running around the room. She then grabbed Child A's wrist to prevent him from falling to the ground and she then picked him up under his armpits to carry him out of the classroom. Ms. Samantha also stated that Ms. Candice did not intentionally grab Child A to hurt him, but just to get him to listen to her and stop running around the room.

On April 7, 2022, CI Spaulding conducted an interview with Parent A. Parent A stated that Child A does have special needs and does have behaviors and Child A did punch Candice in the face after she grabbed Child A.

On February 9, 2022, CI Spaulding observed and received a screenshot of a text message that was sent to Parent A informing Parent A of Child A spitting on teachers and displaying behaviors.

On February 9, 2022, CI Spaulding observed the medical exam form for Child A. The medical exam form indicates that Child A has a medical diagnosis that requires a specialized care plan. CI Spaulding was informed that the facility does not have a specialized care plan on file for Child A and was therefore, not knowledgeable about Child A's needs.

On February 9, 2022, CI Spaulding observed multiple incident reports for Child A that indicate a pattern of Child A hitting other individuals, throwing objects within the classroom, and spitting at others while in care at Little Learners of St. Peters.

On February 9, 2022, compliance inspector (CI) Spaulding observed the video footage of the incident involving Child A and caregiver, Candice Wester on February 7, 2022. CI Spaulding observed Child A running around the classroom hitting other individuals in the classroom and throwing objects within the classroom prior to caregiver, Candice Wester grabbing Child A's arm to turn him and speak to him as he was walking away from Candice. Child A then drops to the floor and Candice attempts to lift him up while then placing both hands under Child A's armpit area and carries Child A out of the classroom. During this time, Candice is observed to have been punched in the nose by Child A. Prior to addressing Child A, Candice is observed addressing another child in the classroom that was also exhibiting behaviors.

Based on interviews with the staff, Parent A and observations of the video footage, and Child A's file including incident reports, CI Spaulding was able to determine that the caregivers in the classroom did not have the knowledge to know how to meet Child A's needs without the specialized care form on file and therefore were unable to meet Child A's behavioral needs in the classroom.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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The facility shall develop a plan to ensure that all new employees (paid employees and unpaid/paid volunteers) are fully trained, prior to caring for children, on the facility's procedures as they pertain to allergies and children with special needs. A copy of the plan shall be submitted to the Office of Childhood.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

4/21/2022

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The facility shall review all children's files and ensure that any child with special physical, behavioral, or developmental needs has a specialized care plan on file. A signed statement that this task has been completed and all children's records are in compliance shall be submitted to the Office of Childhood.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

4/21/2022

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

All staff members (paid employees or unpaid volunteers) must take the 1.0 clock hour online training course titled, "Making a Difference: Protecting Health and Keeping Children Safe" available at <https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/onlinetraining.php> Verification of attendance shall be through the Toolbox report.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

7/1/2022

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

4/8/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L