



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL
LANSING

DR BEVERLY WALKER
GRIFFEA
DIRECTOR

REVIEWED FOR REDACTIONS

8/8/2024

Wee Wings Montessori, LLC
411 E. Superior,
Wayland, MI, 49348

License Number: DC030338034
Special Investigation Number: SI-00125919

Dear Wee Wings Montessori, LLC,

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing bureau received a complaint against your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The allegations were related to the following:

Rule/Law Number	Rule Description
R 400.8385	Poisonous or toxic materials.

The details of the allegations are in the attached report. To investigate the allegations:

- I interviewed: the licensee, child care staff members, child care parents, child care staff members, and witnesses.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 5/10/2024

As a result of this investigation, I found the following violation(s):

Rule/Law Number	Rule Description
R 400.8152(4)	Prescription medication must have the pharmacy label indicating the physician's name, child's first and last name, instructions, name and strength of the medication, and must be given according to those instructions.

Due to the violations, you must send us a [corrective action plan](#) by 8/28/2024. You can use our corrective action plan form or create your own.

If you need help writing the corrective action plan, please contact licensing consultant Sean Shankin at or shankins@michigan.gov. If you do not send a corrective action plan, you may face disciplinary action. The corrective action plan must include the following:

- How compliance with each rule will be achieved.
- Who is directly responsible for implementing the corrective action for each violation.
- Specific time frames for each violation as to when the correction will be completed or implemented.
- How continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- The signature of the responsible party and a date.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This report and any related corrective action plans must be filed in your licensing notebook. This report and any related corrective action plans will be online for parents to review under the [Statewide Search for Licensed Child Care Centers and Homes](#).

Please review this report for accuracy and contact your consultant, Sean Shankin at (269)568-5575 or shankins@michigan.gov. In the event that Sean Shankin is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,



Sean Shankin, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL
CHILD CARE LICENSING**

Report Type: Special Investigation Report

Date of Report: 8/8/2024

Special Investigation Number	Complaint/Incident Receipt Date
SI-00125919	05/09/2024
Investigation Initiation Date	Report Due Date
7/30/2024	07/08/2024
License Number	Licensee Name(s)
DC030338034	Wee Wings Montessori, LLC
Facility Name	Licensee Designee(s)
Wee Wings Montessori	Kathryn Lee Abts-Kerley
Program Type	Central Administrator(s)
Center	
Capacity	Program Director(s) Name
20	
Facility Address	Mailing Address
411 E. Superior, Wayland, MI, 49348	411 E. Superior, Wayland, MI, 49348
Facility Phone Number	Facility Email Address
2693971600	abtsker@gmail.com
Original License Issuance Date	License Status:
6/10/2013	Regular
License Effective Date:	License Expiration Date:
12/10/2023	12/9/2025

ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?	
Child A ingested prescription medications that were accessible within the classroom.		No
Additional Finding:	Yes	

METHODOLOGY

Date	Activity
7/30/2024	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00125919
5/9/2024	Contact – Email Received Correspondence with Elijah Martin, MDHHS.

5/10/2024	Special Investigation Initiated via On-site 8:45 AM - 11:00 AM Elijah Martin, MDHHS and I interviewed the Licensee Kathryn Abts-Kerley, CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and Witness 1
5/10/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Spoke with Child A and Child B's Mother, Child C and Child D's Mother, Child E's Mother, Child F's Mother, Child G's Mother, Child H and Child I's Mother, and Child J's Mother.
5/21/2024	Contact – Email Received Email received from Elijah Martin, MDHHS.
5/28/2024	Contact – Email Received Pre-disposition case conference scheduled.
6/4/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Pre-disposition case conference with Elijah Martin, MDHHS, Carrie Ingold, MDHHS Manager, and Charnell Lennox, MiLEAP Manager.
6/4/2024	Exit Conference Exit conference held with Elijah Martin, MDHHS, and the licensee Kathryn Abts-Kerley.
6/4/2024	Inspection Completed – Substantial Compliance
6/21/2024	Contact – Phone Call Received Elijah Martin, MDHHS forensically interviewed Child C, Child E, and Child F.

ALLEGATION: Child A ingested prescription medications that were accessible within the classroom.

INVESTIGATION:

On 5/9/2024 an email correspondence occurred with Elijah Martin, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to coordinate an inspection at the Wee Wings child care center. A joint inspection was scheduled for 5/10/2024 at 8:45 AM.

On 5/10/2024 Elijah Martin, MDHHS and I conducted an unannounced onsite inspection at the child care facility. During the inspection interviews were conducted with the licensee Kathryn Abts-Kerley, Witness 1, CCSM 1 and CCSM 2.

During the interview with Kathryn Abts-Kerley, we discussed the allegations concerning Child A requiring medical services shortly after he left the United Methodist church on 5/7/2024. Kathryn Abts-Kerley acknowledged Child A and Child B's Mother informed her at approximately 5:00 PM that she had Child A taken to the hospital by ambulance, for what his mother believed was due to ingesting medications. Kathryn Abts-Kerley confirmed Child A and Child B previously attended Wee Wings Preschool but stated they have not been enrolled for the current school year due to Child A and Child B's

Mother's inability to pay the tuition. After dismissing Child A and Child B from the preschool, Child A and Child B's Mother made separate arrangements with Witness 1, to provide care for Child A and Child B. Despite Witness 1 providing unlicensed care for unrelated children within the United Methodist Church, Kathryn Abts-Kerley denied she has any affiliation with Wee Wings Preschool. While she denied providing care for Child A and Child B, she confirmed Child A is physically present in the building for the duration of the day, and that he is dropped off in the mornings and immediately goes with Witness 1. The extent of contact Kathryn Abts-Kerley has with Child A is limited to times when the preschool and Witness 1 are using the outdoor play area at the same time. During these periods neither Kathryn Abts-Kerley nor her CCSMs have provided care or supervision for Child A and reported Witness 1 is always physically present with Child A. Regarding Child B, Kathryn Abts-Kerley identified him as being school-age, and reported he does take the Wayland Union school bus to the United Methodist church for after-school care with Witness 1. Kathryn Abts-Kerley acknowledged seeing Child B daily, as he gets off the bus with the school-age children enrolled in the preschool's after-school program. Kathryn Abts-Kerley stated this was the extent of the contact she has with Child B.

Kathryn Abts-Kerley did not understand how the allegations came to be, as Child A and Child B are not with her students or using the approved child use space. When asked, Kathryn Abts-Kerley acknowledged having one child enrolled, Child E, who takes prescription medications. She denied providing medications for Child E on a regular basis, as he is only enrolled in the child care center for before school care and is only present from 7:30 AM to 8:00 AM. Kathryn Abts-Kerley admitted she has provided him with his medications on occasion, but only during periods like spring break or school closures, where he'll be present for the full-day.

Child E has not attended a full day at Wee Wings Preschool since the 2023-2024 school years spring break. When Child E is presented with his medications Kathryn Abts-Kerley uses a pill crusher provided by Child E's Father, and then mixes the medication in applesauce. Kathryn Abts-Kerley denied other children have eaten Child E's medication laden applesauce, as it's given to him during times where the other children do not have lunch or snacks. She stated this was purposeful, to prevent any other children from confusing their food with Child E's. Additionally, when the applesauce is provided to Child E, he sits at a table by himself, while consuming it.

At the conclusion of the interview with Kathryn Abts-Kerley she provided me with a copy of the medication policy, the daily attendance logs, and a letter drafted to Child A and Child B's mother on 12/11/2023 advising Child A and Child B were discharged from the preschool due to having an outstanding balance. She also provided us with a written statement drafted by Witness 1 after the incident occurred.

During our interview with Witness 1 she denied having any affiliation with the child care center but acknowledge providing unlicensed child care to two previous child care families within the United Methodist Church. She identified the families as Child A and Child B's family, and Child C's family. It was noted that Child C has a sibling, Child D,

who does attend Wee Wings Preschool for before and after-school care. Witness 1 confirmed neither Child A, Child B nor Child C attend the preschool, and stated she provides care for the children in a separate area within the church. Witness 1 is financially compensated directly from Child A and Child B's family and Child C's family. She stated the only contact Child A, Child B, and Child C have with the preschool children are during times when they are enroute to the outdoor play area, and they use the hallway where the preschool students are located, as a means of egress. She also said they will occasionally utilize the outdoor play area at the same time. When this has occurred Witness 1 is physically present, providing direct line-of-site care and supervision for Child A, Child B, and Child C.

On the day of the incident, Witness 1 confirmed Child A was not feeling well, and said Child A's Father dropped him off with a cold, reporting he had a cough and a runny nose. Child A's Father does provide Witness 1 with an allergy medication at drop-off, which Witness 1 places in Child A's backpack, until lunch. On 5/7/2024 when Child A was dropped off not feeling well, Witness 1 confirmed the allergy medicine was given to him around lunch time, and that Child A took a nap shortly after. Witness 1 stated Child A had complained he did not feel well but she did not contact Child A and Child B's Parents because she was under the assumption they were aware, due to Child A's Father acknowledging he was sick at drop-off. After Child A and Child B were picked up by their mother at approximately 4:30 PM, she informed her that he was still not feeling well. Witness 1 said Child A and Child B's Mother later contacted Kathryn Abts-Kerley and informed her they called an ambulance, out of concern he ingested someone's medication. Witness 1 believed Child A and Child B's Mother called Kathryn Abts-Kerley because Witness 1 did not currently have "minutes loaded" on her phone. Witness 1 denied has never observed medications as accessible while walking past the preschool space, enroute to going outside. Witness 1 provided the schedule for the times she provides the children with care. She stated Child A and Child C are with her Monday through Friday arriving around 8:00 AM and departing between 4:00-5:00 PM. She identified Child B being in her care for approximately 20 to 30 minutes per day, before being picked up by the school bus.

CCSM 1 denied Child A, Child B, and Child C attend Wee Wings Preschool. She reported being employed with the preschool since August of 2023, and she could not recall the last time Child A and Child B attended. Despite Child A, Child B, and Child C being within the United Methodist Church, she denied providing care for any of the children. CCSM 1 was aware of the children's schedule with Witness 1 stating Child B is only present for a short time in the mornings, while Child A and Child C are with Witness 1 for the entire day. CCSM 1 stated there were no times in which they have provided care, stating Witness 1 has been late, on occasion, and when this occurs, either Child A and Child B's Mother or Father will wait inside their car with the children until Witness 1 arrives at the church. CCSM 1 said the preschool children will sporadically have contact with Child A and Child C, and that this is limited to outdoor play. The last time the children were with the preschool children was approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior.

CCSM 1 identified Child E as the only preschool child that has prescription medications. Despite acknowledging Child E does take medications, she said this was not frequent, as Child E is typically only present in the morning. CCSM 1 wasn't aware of the medication prescribed to Child E and did not know where Kathryn Abts-Kerley kept the medication. CCSM 1 denied ever witnessing medications being accessible to the child care children. CCSM 1 did not have any concerns regarding the care and supervision provided by Kathryn Abts-Kerley or CCSM 2.

CCSM 2 has been employed with the preschool since August of 2023. During the time of his employment, CCSM 2 did not recall any instances where Child A, Child B, or Child C received child care from anyone affiliated with the preschool. CCSM 2 identified Child A and Child B's Father as the primary person who performs drop offs. CCSM 2 said Child A and Child B are brought directly to Witness 1 upon arrival, and disclosed Child B will only be physically present in the building for approximately 10 minutes before he's picked up by the bus and brought to school. CCSM 2 said Child B and Child E both take the bus to school in the morning together. He identified Witness 1 as always being present when Child B is brought to the pickup location.

CCSM 2 believed the last time Child E attended the preschool for a full day was around spring break for the 2023-2024 school year. He identified Kathryn Abts-Kerley as the only individual who will provide Child E with his medications and identified the medication being crushed and placed in Child E's applesauce. CCSM 2 said the applesauce is often, but not always, given the applesauce during times outside of snack and lunch, and denied ever witnessing any other children gain access to his applesauce. Similarly, CCSM 2 denied having knowledge or awareness of medications being left out or accessible to any of the preschool children. CCSM 2 did not have any concerns regarding the care or supervision for any of the preschool children.

At conclusion of the onsite inspection Elijah Martin and I made phone calls to the child care parents. We spoke with Child A and Child B's Mother, Child C and Child D's Mother, Child E's Mother, Child F's Mother, Child G's Mother, Child H and Child I's Mother, and Child J's Mother.

A phone call attempt was made to both Child A and Child B's Mother and Father, with a voicemail being left for both parents. A short time after the visit concluded Elijah Martin, MDHHS received a return phone call from Child A and Child B's Mother. During the brief conversation Elijah Martin, MDHHS advised she was "irate" and refused to speak with him. Elijah Martin, MDHHS noted prior to termination of the phone call, she requested that he refrain from making future contact, prior to abruptly discontinuing the conversation. Elijah Martin, MDHHS advised he was unable to ask Child A and Child B's Mother any questions during the exchange. Child C and Child D's Mother confirmed Child C and Child D are both dropped off at the United Methodist Church of Wayland every day, however, Child D only attends for before and after school care. Despite Child C also being dropped off at the building, she denied Child C was enrolled within their preschool program. Child C and Child D's Mother has been utilizing Witness 1 for child care for Child C since 10/31/2022. It was her understanding that Child C is not present

with the preschool children at Wee Wings, and she confirmed paying Witness 1 directly, for the services provided. Child C and Child D's Mother denied having any concerns for Child C while in Witness 1's care or Child D when she is present for before and after school care. Child C and Child D's Mother denied observing any concerns or hazards during her time within the facility and stated neither child takes any prescribed or OTC medications. Child E's Mother acknowledged Child E attends the child care center, but advised he is only present for approximately 1 hour per day, from 7:30 AM until 8:30 AM. Child E's Mother confirmed Child E takes a prescribed medication, and that it is administered 3 times, daily. Child E receives his first dose at home, prior to leaving for the Wee Wings before school care, and then receives his second dose from his elementary school, with his last dose being given to him in the evening before bed. The only time Child E has been given the medication at Wee Wings are during periods where he is present for the duration of the day. The last time the CCSMs at Wee Wings have given Child E his medications were over spring break, which she noted to be 4/2/2024. Child E's Mother advised Kathryn Abts-Kerley is given the medication at the time of drop-off along with a pill crusher they use prior to mixing the medications with his applesauce. Child E's Mother denied having concerns regarding the level of care provided and identified Kathryn Abts-Kerley as being "wonderful." During the time she has been present in the facility, she has never observed any medications that have been left out or accessible to the child care children. She continued, noting when Child E's medications are given to Kathryn Abts-Kerley, it is immediately placed in the kitchen area, where the children do not have access. Child F's Mother informed us Child F has been attending Wee Wings preschool since the fall of 2023. Child F's Mother denied having any concerns for Child F's health, safety, care and wellbeing during the time he's been enrolled. She identified Child F as having "special needs" and acknowledged he can occasionally be "harder to deal with." Despite Child F's needs, Child F's Mother has not had any concerns and denied Child F receives any medications while in attendance. Child F's Mother has never observed any hazardous materials, including, but not limited to medications, accessible to the children.

Child G has been attending the child care facility for 2 years and Child G's Mother denied Child G has taken prescription or OTC medications for the duration of her enrollment. Child G's Mother did not have any concerns regarding the health and safety of Child G while in care and denied witnessing any accessible medications or other hazardous items during pickups and drop offs.

Child H and Child I's Mother said her children have been attending Wee Wings Preschool and before and after-school care for 2 and 3 years, respectively. She denied either children take prescribed or OTC medications and reported that the last time either child needed an OTC medication was several years ago. During this time, Child H and Child I's Mother confirmed completing all the necessary paperwork for Kathryn Abts-Kerley to administer the medicine. She denied witnessing anything concerning while at the preschool and did not have concern for her children while in the care of Wee Wings.

Child J's Mother stated he has been attending the preschool program since October of 2022. She denied Child J takes any prescription or OTC medications. During the times

she has been inside the preschool, Child J's Mother has never observed any medications or other hazardous items accessible to the children. She advised Child J is excited to attend the preschool, and that she and Child J's Father "loves" the preschool and CCSMs and that she "couldn't say anything bad about them." During the phone calls voicemail messages were left for Child K's Mother, and Child L and Child M's Mother. We were unable to establish contact with Child K's Mother and Child L and Child M's Mother prior to conclusion of the investigation.

On 5/21/2024 an email correspondence occurred with Elijah Martin, MDHHS. He received permission to forensically interview Child C, Child E, and Child H, and was enroute to the child care center. I participated in the interviews via teleconference. During the forensic interviews conducted by Elijah Martin, MDHHS, the following information was relayed:

Child C said Kathryn Abts-Kerley gives Child E his medications and that they're kept in the refrigerator. She was aware that he takes medications because Kathryn Abts-Kerley "yells at the top of her lungs" when it's time for him to have his medicine. Child C denied ever observing the medications accessible within the classroom. She also denied Child A was in the preschool and said Witness 1 watches him during the day.

Child E was aware that he takes daily medication and understood the process of the medication being "crushed up" and placed within applesauce. Child E admitted he has previously taken his medicine while at Wee Wings, but he could not recall the last time he has taken it. Child E said he also takes his medicine twice per day when he's at school. Child E did not believe any other children have taken his medications and denied ever sharing his applesauce with the other children. Child E advised Kathryn Abts-Kerley was the only person that give him medicine, and he was aware the medicine was kept in the kitchen and said, "only teachers" are permitted to enter the kitchen area.

Child H identified Child E as the only child that takes medication during the day. He was aware of this because "Ms. Kathy always calls him over to get his medicine." Child H denied ever seeing the medicine in the preschool, and stated it was kept in the refrigerator. Child H did not believe any other children have taken Child E's medication in the classroom.

At the conclusion of the interviews, I had a brief phone conversation with Elijah Martin, MDHHS. It was relayed to him that on 5/6/2024 Child A fell, not within the child care center, suffering a concussion. The fall caused the behaviors that were thought to be the result of medication overdose.

On 5/28/2024 Elijah Martin, MDHHS and I scheduled a pre-disposition case conference for 6/4/2024.

On 6/4/2024 the pre-disposition occurred. Present for the teleconference were Elijah Martin, MDHHS, Carrie Ingold, MDHHS, and Charnell Lennox, MiLEAP.

6/4/2024 an exit conference was held with the licensee Kathryn Abts-Kersley.

The Child Care Organizations Act allows the Child Care Licensing Bureau the ability to utilize available information, including, but not limited to, any of the following: (a) Investigative report, such as a law enforcement report and a children's protective services report. (b) Medical report. (c) Public record. (d) Child care center, group child care home, or family child care home record. (e) Inspection of the child care center, group child care home, or family child care home, as well as criminal history information to determine whether an individual is conducive to the welfare of children. Based on my interview and review of allowable information, the Child Care Licensing Bureau finds that the disposition, temperament, condition, and actions of the child care staff members do promote the safety and well-being of children in a licensed child care setting.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8125	(2) All staff and volunteers shall act in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children.
ANALYSIS:	Based on the information presented in this investigation the child care staff members and program director did act in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8385	Poisonous or toxic materials.
ANALYSIS:	Child A was not an enrolled child within the preschool. Upon receiving medical care, it was believed he suffered complications from the concussion.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ADDITIONAL FINDING:

INVESTIGATION:

During the investigation Kathy Abts-Kersley disclosed after receiving the medication from Child E's Father, she will then store it in a kitchen cabinet, beyond the reach of the

