



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

DR BEVERLY WALKER
GRIFFEA
DIRECTOR

REVIEWED FOR REDACTIONS

7/17/2024

Education Station LLC
420 Misty Ridge Drive,
Middleville, MI, 49333

License Number: DC030393655
Special Investigation Number: SI-00119985

Dear Education Station 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 400.8125(1)	All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.
R 400.8140(2)(d)	All of the following means of punishment are prohibited: (d) Inflicting mental or emotional punishment, such as humiliating, shaming, or threatening a child.
R 400.8173(3)	Materials that have a warning label indicating they are toxic for children, or to keep out of reach of children, are prohibited from being used by children.
R 400.8330(11)	A center shall not serve infants and toddlers or allow them to eat food that could easily cause choking, including, but not limited to, popcorn, seeds, nuts, hard candy, and uncut round foods such as whole grapes and hot dogs.

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

- I interviewed: the licensee, the licensee designee and program director, child care staff members, child care children, and parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 2/27/2024 & 3/8/2024

As a result of this investigation, I recommend no change to the current license status. I did not find any violations. The special investigation report is attached.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	☐	☒
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	☐	☒

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: 7/17/2024

Special Investigation Number	Complaint/Incident Receipt Date
SI-00119985	02/23/2024
Investigation Initiation Date	Report Due Date
3/8/2024	04/23/2024
License Number	Licensee Name(s)
DC030393655	Education Station LLC
Facility Name	Licensee Designee(s)
Education Station	Yvonne Sabine Pardee Todd J Wedyke
Program Type	Central Administrator(s)
Center	
Capacity	Program Director(s) Name
131	
Facility Address	Mailing Address
863 East Superior Street, Wayland, MI, 49348	420 Misty Ridge Drive, Middleville, MI, 49333
Facility Phone Number	Facility Email Address
2697921230	educationstationmiddleville@gmail.com
Original License Issuance Date	License Status:
10/29/2018	Regular
License Effective Date:	License Expiration Date:
3/6/2023	3/5/2025

ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?	
The child care staff members have not provided appropriate care and supervision as children have been permitted to climb and jump from toy bins within the classroom and gain access to diaper cream.		No
CCSMs have made threats and have used demeaning language directed towards the child care children in the toddler and wobbler rooms.		No
CCSMs were feeding toddlers whole meatballs which posed a choking hazard.		No

METHODOLOGY

Date	Activity
3/8/2024	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00119985
2/26/2024	Special Investigation Initiated via Letter Email correspondence with Jordan Neal (MDHHS).
2/27/2024	Inspection Completed On-Site 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM. Interviewed the assistant PD, CCSM 1, CCSM 2 and CCSM.
3/6/2024	Contact – Phone Call Received Spoke with Jordan Neal (MDHHS).
3/8/2024	Inspection Completed On-Site 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM. On-site inspection with Jordan Neal (MDHHS). Interviewed CCSM 4, CCSM 5, and the PD.
3/11/2024	Contact – Email Sent Correspondence with Jordan Neal (MDHHS).
3/13/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Spoke with Jordan Neal (MDHHS)
3/18/2024	Contact – Email Received Correspondence with Jordan Neal (MDHHS).
3/21/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Spoke with Jordan Neal (MDHHS).
3/21/2024	Exit Conference Exit conference conducted with the licensee and owner, Todd Wedyke.
6/13/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Spoke to Child B's Mother, Child E's Mother, and Child G's Mother. Voicemail message left for Child C's Mother, Child D's Mother, and Child F's Mother.
6/13/2024	Inspection Completed – Full Compliance Recommend investigation be closed.

ALLEGATION: The child care staff members have not provided appropriate care and supervision as children have been permitted to climb and jump from toy bins within the classroom, and gain access to diaper cream.

INVESTIGATION:

On 2/26/2024 an email correspondence occurred with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) worker, Jordan Neal. A joint onsite visit was planned for 2/27/2024 to conduct interviews. On 2/27/2024 I conducted an onsite inspection with Jordan Neal, MDHHS for the purposes of interviewing the child care staff. During the

onsite we spoke to the assistant program director (PD), child care staff member (CCSM) 1, CCSM 2, and CCSM 3.

Prior to conducting the interviews Jordan Neal, MDHHS advised that on 2/26/2024 he interviewed the PD and made visual confirmation of the children. Jordan Neal, MDHHS denied having any concerns regarding the children's immediate well-being.

The assistant PD previously worked as a lead teacher in the toddler room prior to being promoted. The assistant PD has been employed at the child care center for a little over 6 months. Assistant PD did not believe there were any concerns with the care and supervision the CCSMs provide to the child care children. While discussing the allegation that a child got into diaper cream in the toddler room, she acknowledged this occurred, but stated, "we caught it before anything happened." The assistant PD provided additional information regarding the incident, denying Child A opened or ingested the diaper cream. Despite Child A not ingesting or opening the diapering cream, the assistant PD acknowledged the diaper cream was accessible to the child care children, as it was placed in a bin attached to the diapering table. After the incident occurred, the diaper cream was moved to another location within the toddler room, which is not accessible to the child care children. The assistant PD did not believe the lack of supervision permitted Child A to gain access to the diaper cream.

As we continued to address the concerns related to care and supervision, the assistant PD acknowledged there are children that, on occasion, will empty out the bins and baskets and have attempted to climb them. In addition to the bins and baskets, she said the children have also attempted to stack and climb books in the classroom. The assistant PD denied recalling any instances where the children were hurt from climbing the baskets, and stated as soon as they observe this, the CCSMs will pick up and move the children and inform them it isn't safe. The assistant PD reported only a small number of children that frequently attempted to climb the bins but acknowledged the other children will copy the behavior when it's observed. The assistant PD stated they have since begun removing the bins after the children take out the toys to prevent this from happening.

While addressing concerns CCSMs have not provided appropriate care and supervision due to their phone usage, the assistant PD denied this was a concern. The CCSMs will use their phones to update the ProCare app used to communicate with families. She stated she understood how this could be misinterpreted. Prior to concluding the interview, the assistant PD relayed the CCSM's are "great," and they all have close relationships with the children.

CCSM 1 was unsure of the allegations prior to the interview. She denied being present on the day Child A gained access to the diaper cream. She acknowledged the children have previously taken the diaper cream and supplies from the changing table but denied they were opened or ingested. CCSM 1 was not aware of any parent complaints regarding the diaper cream and did not believe supervision played a role in the occurrence.

While discussing the children climbing and jumping from the baskets and bins, she acknowledged this frequently occurs. CCSM 1 stated that while the bins and baskets are used to store toys, due to the children's behaviors the CCSMs have begun removing the bins after they're emptied. CCSM 1 denied being aware of any children injuring themselves while climbing the bins. Prior to the CCSMs removing the bins, they would pick the children up from beneath their arms and move them from the bins. They also provide verbal redirection, when taking them off the bins. CCSM 1 did not believe the allegations of CCSM's excessively being on their phones while providing care. She explained the CCSM's will use their personal phones to log information into the ProCare app, which notifies the parents of the children's behavior and interactions.

CCSM 2 has been working at the facility for approximately 11 months. She primarily works in the infant room and has only been in the toddler classroom "a couple times." While CCSM 2 is not typically in the toddler room, she acknowledged working in the toddler room the day of the incident. She confirmed Child A was able to access the diaper cream located in the bin attached to the diapering table. CCSM 2 said this occurred around the time the infant and toddler classrooms merged towards the end of the day and was common practice dependent upon ratios. She stated it often becomes chaotic during the transition. CCSM 2 identified Child A as her child. She was aware he gained access to the diaper cream as she witnessed this occur; however, CCSM 2 denied Child A opened or ingested the cream. She also confirmed Child A will frequently attempt to take the diaper cream.

CCSM 2 did not have any concerns regarding the care and supervision the children receive, and she denied believing the lack of appropriate care or supervision contributed to Child A gaining access to the diaper cream. After witnessing Child A grab the diaper cream, she immediately requested another CCSM remove it from his possession. CCSM 2 said they recently moved the cream to a location that was not accessible to the children.

While discussing concerns the children will climb the bins and baskets, CCSM 2 acknowledged this is a common occurrence. Despite frequency, CCSM 2 denied the children are permitted to climb the baskets. To prevent the children from climbing on the baskets, CCSM 2 stated they have begun emptying the toys from the bins and then removing the bins and baskets from the children's reach. CCSM 2 denied recalling any children being injured due to climbing atop the bins. She stated that when they do observe children climbing, they remove them by physically carrying them away from the bins, picking them up from beneath the arms while telling them "no thank you."

CCSM 2 did not believe there were issues amongst the other CCSMs concerning the frequency in which they are on their phones. CCSM 2 acknowledged they regularly use the phones in the infant, wobbler, and toddler rooms as they frequently update the ProCare app. She also believed it was obvious when the CCSM's are "scrolling online" compared to updating the children's progress notes. CCSM 2 concluded all the CCSM's

are “very intuitive,” and she does not have concerns regarding Child A’s care or safety while in the care of any of the CCSMs.

CCSM 3 has been working at the child care center for almost 10 years. Her primary role cooking the food, but she acknowledged “floating” to assist when needed. In the times she has observed interactions with the other CCSMs and the children, she identified them as being “very attentive,” stating “they provide good supervision,” but she acknowledged her exposure was limited.

CCSM 3 was unable to provide any direct knowledge of the children having access to toxic or hazardous materials or jumping from the bins and baskets. CCSM 3 has observed CCSMs using their phones while providing care; however, she explained that the CCSMs regularly update the ProCare app throughout the day to communicate with the child care parents. CCSM 3 has not observed the CCSMs using their phones for anything outside of photographing children or providing updates regarding their daily activities.

At the conclusion of the interviews Jordan Neal, MDHHS and myself we briefly spoke to the PD. She believed the allegations were related to a former CCSM that “walked out” in the middle of her shift without explanation. We informed the PD there were two additional CCSMs that would need to be interviewed who were not present.

On 3/6/2024 a follow-up inspection was scheduled for 3/8/2024 with Jordan Neal, MDHHS, to interview the remaining CCSMs and to try to forensically interview children from the toddler and wobbler rooms.

On 3/8/2024 a follow-up onsite inspection occurred at the child care center. During the visit Jordan Neal, MDHHS and I interviewed CCSM 4, CCSM 5, and the PD. Prior to conducting interviews with the CCSMs, Jordan Neal, MDHHS spoke with Child B, Child C, Child D, Child E, Child F, and Child H. He was unable to forensically interview all children due to their developmental level and/or their refusal to engage.

CCSM 4 was present in the classroom when Child A took the diaper cream from the changing table. She said this has happened before in the toddler classroom, and more frequently occurs when the wobbler and toddler classrooms merge. Due to the current investigation, the diapering supplies were moved to a location that’s inaccessible to the children. While this has happened in the past, CCSM 4 denied being aware of any situations where the diaper cream had been opened or ingested. Regarding Child A, CCSM 4 said the diaper cream was “immediately” taken away.

Discussing the concerns surrounding the care and supervision, CCSM 4 acknowledged the toddlers and wobblers will occasionally climb the empty baskets used to hold the toys in the classroom. CCSM 4 denied having knowledge of children being injured while climbing or jumping. When they have observed the children climbing, they verbally redirect them while also picking the children up beneath their arms, just above their torso, and moving them to a different location within the classroom. CCSM 4 said

recently, the CCSMs have been emptying the toys and removing the bins and placing them in inaccessible locations.

CCSM 4 did not believe there were concerns regarding phone usage and acknowledged the CCSMs utilize their personal phones during child care hours for the purposes of documentation and communication with the child care parents.

CCSM 5 predominately works in the toddler and wobbler room but will occasionally act as a floater when needed. She denied observing situations where the CCSMs were not providing appropriate care and supervision to the children. While discussing Child A gaining access to the diaper cream, CCSM 5 recalled this incident, but said it was “pretty common” for the children to remove the diaper cream from the diapering supplies from the changing table. Due to the investigation, CCSM 5 reported the diapering supplies, including the diaper cream, were moved to an inaccessible location. While Child A was able to grab the cream, she denied he opened or consumed the diaper cream. CCSM 5 also said the diaper cream was immediately taken from Child A after he took the cream.

CCSM 5 acknowledged the children in the toddler room tend to climb the bins and baskets and jump off. This has been a recurrent issue, but she denied a child was ever hurt or injured resulting from jumping off the bins. she acknowledged this is an ongoing issue with the children. As a result of the children climbing and jumping from the bins, the CCSMs have begun emptying the toys and immediately removing the baskets. CCSM 5 stated that removing the baskets has curbed the occurrence, and she did not believe the children had been able to gain access to the baskets due to a lack of the supervision provided. CCSM 5 denied the CCSM’s phone usage contributed to any of the concerns in the allegations, acknowledging they do use their phones to update the ProCare app.

On 3/11/2024 I had an email correspondence with Jordan Neal, MDHHS to schedule phone interviews with the child care parents for 3/13/2023.

During the interviews Jordan Neal, MDHHS attempted to spoke with Child B’s Mother, Child C’s Mother, Child D’s Father, Child E’s Mother and Father, Child F’s Mother, Child G’s Mother and Father, Child H’s Mother and Father, Child I’s Mother, Child J’s Mother and Father, Child K’s Mother, Child L’s Mother, Child M’s Mother, and Child N’s Mother. Jordan Neal, MDHHS denied the families had concerns for the children’s care and supervision.

He reported leaving a voicemail message for Child O’s Mother. He was also unable to establish contact with Child P’s Mother because the phone was out of service. Contact was not established with the families of Child O and Child P prior to conclusion of the investigation.

I had a telephone conference with Jordan Neal MDHHS on 3/13/24. Jordan Neal, MDHHS completed and closed their investigation. 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.

On 6/13/2024 I spoke to Child B's Mother, Child E's Mother, and Child G's Mother.

Child B's Mother, Child E's Mother, and Child G's Mother denied having any concerns regarding the care and supervision and believed the preventative measures of removing the diaper supplies and storage bins were a sufficient response by the child care center. All child care parents reported being satisfied with the preventative measure taken by the child care center moving the diaper cream and supplies to an inaccessible area within the classroom.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8125(1)	All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.
ANALYSIS:	There were no concerns regarding the level or quality of care and supervision provided to the child care children. While Child A was able to gain access to the diaper cream, Child A's Mother was working in the classroom as a CCSM at the time. Child A's Mother disclosed witnessing Child A remove the diaper cream, stating it was immediately removed from his possession. Child A's Mother/CCSM 2 denied Child A opened or ingested the diaper cream during the incident.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

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 400.8173(3)	Materials that have a warning label indicating they are toxic for children, or to keep out of reach of children, are prohibited from being used by children.
ANALYSIS:	Despite the diaper cream being accessible and obtained by Child A, the tube was never opened or ingested. Child A's Mother (who is also CCSM 2) was present/working in the classroom when the incident occurred and witnessed Child A grab the cream. Child A's mother disclosed the diaper cream was immediately taken from his possession and the diapering supplies were relocated to an area not accessible to the child care children.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

ALLEGATION: CCSMs have made threats and have used demeaning language directed towards the child care children in the toddler and wobbler rooms.

INVESTIGATION:

The assistant PD denied the allegations that the CCSMs have yelled, swore, threatened, or disparaged the children while needing redirection. It was her understanding the CCSMs use verbal redirection or will physically move the children to a different area within the classroom.

CCSM 1 denied witnessing any CCSM using disparaging language while addressing the children. Similarly, she denied hearing any threatening statements directed towards the children. When physical redirection is needed, she said the children are "gently" picked up from beneath their arms and moved to different locations. The CCSMs only pick up and move the children if verbal redirection is unsuccessful. CCSM 1 denied witnessing any CCSM yelling at children but stated she will occasionally hear them raise their voice while trying to get the children's attention.

CCSM 2 denied having concerns regarding the way CCSMs speak and interact with the children. CCSM 2 denied making or hearing any threats directed towards the children. The only forms of redirection used were talking with the children and moving them to a different location within the classroom.

Since CCSM 3 does not regularly work in the classrooms and denied witnessing any CCSM use disparaging or threatening language while providing redirection. CCSM 3 said she's only seen "positive" interactions between the CCSM's and children.

CCSM 4 denied using or witnessing any inappropriate methods of redirection and that the CCSM's only use verbal redirection for the toddlers and wobblers. With the older children CCSM 4 said they also use timeout to redirection the children. She denied hearing threatening language directed towards the children. She did acknowledge at times the CCSMs will use "not nice tones," but clarified stating they will occasionally yell or raise their voice to prevent children from engaging in dangerous behavior. CCSM 4 admitted seeing CCSMs become "frustrated," but said they were "really good" finding coverage so they could have a break.

CCSM 5 has been employed at the child care for 3 years. She denied witnessing any events that she would characterize as inappropriate discipline, including the use of disparaging or threatening language. She acknowledged the use escalated tone while trying to get their attention. CCSM 5 denied the use of any form of redirection used for the toddlers and wobblers outside of attempting to speak and comfort them during times of distress.

Jordan Neal (MDHHS) advised Child B's Mother, Child C's Mother, Child D's Father, Child E's Mother and Father, Child F's Mother, Child G's Mother and Father, Child H's Mother and Father, Child I's Mother, Child J's Mother and Father, Child K's Mother, Child L's Mother, Child M's Mother, and Child N's Mother did not express concerns with the discipline practices used by the CCSMs. All child care parents that spoke to Jordan Neal (MDHHS) cited verbal redirection as the only form of discipline the children receive.

During my discussion with the child care parents on 6/13/2024 Child B's Mother, Child E's Mother, and Child G's Mother denied having concerns regarding the methods of discipline or redirection used for the child care children. All child care believed the CCSMs used verbal redirection or physically removing the child care children and placing them in different areas throughout the classroom.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8140(2)(d)	All of the following means of punishment are prohibited:

	(d) Inflicting mental or emotional punishment, such as humiliating, shaming, or threatening a child.
ANALYSIS:	During the investigation there were no disclosures made from child care parents or child care children supporting the allegations that inappropriate methods and forms of discipline are used.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

ALLEGATION: CCSMs were feeding toddlers whole meatballs which posed a choking hazard.

INVESTIGATION:

The assistant PD denied the allegations that children in the toddler and wobbler classrooms are provided foods that pose choking hazards. While the children have been served food including meatballs and hotdogs, she stated CCSM 3 will bring the food directly to the classrooms and that it is already cut before it's brought to the classrooms. The assistant PD advised they do check the food prior to feeding the children and will further cut the food if they believe the quartered pieces are too large. The assistant PD stated the only food that is cut in the classroom are grapes. She relayed this is done with a grape cutter, that divides the grapes into quartered sections.

CCSM 1 denied the children are ever provided foods that pose a choking hazard without them first being cut into safe sizes/portions. She said most of the food is cut by CCSM 3 before it's brought to the classroom. Depending on the age of the children, the foods will either be cut in half or quartered.

CCSM 2 denied the children in the wobbler or toddler room were provided food that posed a choking hazard. She said CCSM 3 precuts food that are a choking hazards prior to it being brought to the classroom. The only foods she could recall being served were meatballs, grapes, and hotdogs. CCSM 2 advised the hotdogs were always cut into smaller pieces and added to macaroni and cheese while the grapes and meatballs are quartered.

CCSM 3 relayed that she prepares the in the kitchen, on-site. The food is then brought to the classrooms and served "family style." CCSM 3 acknowledged cutting foods that are a choking hazard, but denied this includes meatballs. Regardless of her not cutting the meatballs prior to providing them to the children, CCSM 3 advised the CCSMs located in the classroom will quarter the foods that do not come pre-cut.

CCSM 4 identified CCSM 3 as the individual that prepares and delivers the food to the classrooms. Despite the food arriving in the classroom precut, CCSM 4 said they will occasionally cut the food into smaller pieces depending upon the ages of the children. She denied giving children whole foods such as grapes, hot dogs, or meatballs.

CCSM 5 denied the children are served whole foods that are a choking hazard. The food is brought to the classroom by CCSM 3, who cuts most of the food they provide to the children. CCSM 5 provided an example and stated the hot dogs will often come but into small pieces while mixed in macaroni and cheese. Dependent upon the child's age and development, CCSM 5 stated they will cut the pieces of hotdog up in smaller portions. CCSM 5 denied witnessing any child in the toddler or wobbler room being given whole pieces of foods, including meatballs.

During the phone conversations with Jordan Neal (MDHHD) had with Child B's Mother, Child C's Mother, Child D's Father, Child E's Mother and Father, Child F's Mother, Child G's Mother and Father, Child H's Mother and Father, Child I's Mother, Child J's Mother and Father, Child K's Mother, Child L's Mother, Child M's Mother, and Child N's Mother denied having concerns regarding the nutrition services and the safety of the children pertaining to food provided to the children that may present a choking hazard.

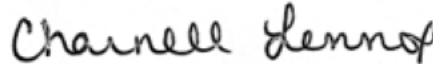
When I conducted phone calls with Child B's Mother, Child C's Mother, and Child E's Mother there were no concerns the children were being fed whole foods that pose a choking hazard, with Child B's Mother advising she provides meals from home, and that the portions of food provided are always cut into manageable pieces.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8330(11)	A center shall not serve infants and toddlers or allow them to eat food that could easily cause choking, including, but not limited to, popcorn, seeds, nuts, hard candy, and uncut round foods such as whole grapes and hot dogs.
ANALYSIS:	There were no disclosures made supporting the allegations the toddler children have been given whole foods that pose a choking hazard. The CCSM 3 is primarily stationed within the kitchen and reported cutting the food prior to it being delivered to the classrooms. Additionally, the CCSM's will also cut the food into smaller pieces based upon the age and developmental level of the children.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

BUREAU RECOMMENDATION

Bureau Recommendation
I recommend no change in the status of the license.

Approved By:	
 Sean Shankin Consultant 07/17/2024 Date	 Charnell Lennox Area Manager 7/22/2024 Date