



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

February 10, 2023

Cynthia Rowe
Branch Intermediate School District
370 Morse Street
Coldwater, MI 49036

RE: License #: DC120314900
Investigation #: 2023D0207003
Branch County Head Start - Lincoln

Dear Ms. Rowe

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received information regarding your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The information was related to the following:

R 400.8125(1) Staff; volunteer; requirements

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

- I interviewed the program director, child care staff member, and parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 01/09/2023 and 2/3/2023.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charnell Lennox". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Charnell" and last name "Lennox" clearly distinguishable.

Charnell Lennox, Licensing Consultant
611 W. Ottawa
P.O Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DC120314900
Investigation #:	2023D0207003
Complaint Receipt Date:	01/06/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	01/09/2023
Report Due Date:	03/07/2023
Licensee Name:	Branch Intermediate School District
Licensee Address:	370 Morse Street Coldwater, MI 49036
Licensee Telephone #:	(517) 279-5830
Administrator:	Cynthia Rowe, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Cynthia Rowe, Designee
Name of Facility:	Branch County Head Start - Lincoln
Facility Address:	Lincoln Elementary School 70 Tibbits Avenue Coldwater, MI 49036
Facility Telephone #:	(517) 279-0066
Original Issuance Date:	09/19/2011
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	03/23/2022
Expiration Date:	03/22/2024
Capacity:	110
Program Type:	CHILD CARE CENTER

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Child A fell off Danielle Cekander's lap and bumped his head on the floor requiring medical treatment.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

01/06/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0207003
01/09/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - Onsite 11:10 to 11:45 A.M. Interviews completed with program director Stephanie Conrad and child care staff member Geneva Struble.
01/10/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Phone call to Child A's mother, Child B's mother and Child C's mother. Left messages for all.
01/17/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Phone call to Child A's mother. Mailbox full could not leave message.
01/18/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Phone call to Child B's mother and Child C's mother.
01/21/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Phone call to Child A's mother. Could not leave a message.
02/03/2023	Inspection completed onsite- interview completed with child care staff member Danielle Cekander. From 1:00P.M.to 1:30 P.M.
02/03/2023	Contact-Telephone call made to Child A's mother left a message.
02/03/2023	Exit Conference- onsite with Stephanie Conrad.

ALLEGATION: Child A fell off Danielle Cekander's lap and bumped his head on the floor requiring medical treatment.

INVESTIGATION: On 1/9/2023 I completed an onsite inspection and interviews with program director Stephanie Conrad and child care staff member Geneva Struble. Ms. Conrad reported that on 11/30/2022 Child A was having a difficult day. Child A often has crying and screaming fits that involve Child A thrashing around. During one of Child A's thrashing tantrums, child care staff member, Danielle Cekander sat on the floor and had Child A sit in her lap to attempt to calm Child A down. While crying and thrashing, Child A fell forward and bumped his head on the carpeted floor. Ms. Cekander immediately picked Child A up and Child A continued to cry and scream. The child care staff were able to get Child A to calm down by taking off Child A's socks and shoes. They believe Child A have sensory development difficulties. This tantrum was brought on by Child A needing to put on shoes and socks for outside time and to get on the Beta bus which is public transportation that transports Child A to and from the center. There was no mark or bruise of any kind on Child A when the Beta bus picked up Child A.

Ms. Conrad reported that Child A's mother was informed that night by Ms. Cekander that Child A had a bad tantrum while at the center and fell forward but there was no mark on him. Child A's mother did not indicate that she had any issues with this and did not tell anyone if she took Child A to the doctor. Just two days prior to this complaint being made, Ms. Cekander and Ms. Conrad were approached by Child A's mother on 1/4/2023 asking if she could get free Beta bus tickets to get Child A to and from the center because transportation is an issue for her. Ms. Cekander and Ms. Conrad checked into this, and informed Child A's mother that she does not qualify for free public transportation tickets because she is not homeless. This angered Child A's mother, and she informed them that she would be calling the authorities because now Child A has been having seizures, and that she took Child A to a hospital in Detroit after Child A fell off Ms. Cekander's lap.

Ms. Conrad asked for a copy of the medical report for Child A's file and has never received one. There is no confirmation that Child A was ever taken to the hospital. Child A's mother has not updated Child A's child information card to note that Child A is having seizures of any kind. Child A continues to attend the center, and none of the child care staff members have been give special instructions on how to handle seizures for Child A and they have never seen Child A have a seizure. Ms. Conrad has no concerns regarding Ms. Cekander and does not believe she caused harm to Child A. I was unable to interview Ms. Cekander on this day because she was out sick. I received a copy of the incident report which Ms. Conrad filled out and sent to me the same day she learned the possibility of Child A receiving medical treatment as a result of this incident.

Ms. Struble is the other child care staff member in Child A's classroom. She witnessed the tantrum on 11/30/2022. She reported that Ms. Cekander was sitting

down on the floor with her legs crossed and was holding Child A appropriately in her lap trying to soothe Child A and coax Child A into putting on shoes and socks. Child A's tantrum lasted about 30 minutes that day which is typical for Child A. Ms. Struble said that Child A's mother warned them at the beginning of the year that Child A will throw his body around while having a tantrum and purposely hit his head on things for attention. Ms. Struble said this information was accurate and they often have to help soothe Child A by sitting on the floor and placing Child A in their lap to soothe him. Ms. Struble said Child A did not have any marks or bruises. On 1/4/2023 after Child A's mother said she was calling the authorities she asked Child A's mother when Child A was taken to the hospital and she would not tell her when and would not tell her what the doctor said. Ms. Struble knew Child A's mother was upset over not qualifying for free Beta bus tickets, but Child A continues to attend the center. Child A's mother has not mentioned the situation since. She has no concerns regarding Ms. Cekanders handling of Child A or any children and thinks she is a very appropriate child care staff member, and shows extreme patience with the children.

I attempted to contact Child A's mother on several occasions without success. I called on 1/10/23 and left a message. I tried again on 1/18 and 1/21 but could not leave a message due to mailbox being full. On 2/3/2023 I was able to leave another message. I spoke to Child B's mother, and Child C's mother on 1/18/2023. They both reported having no concerns regarding Ms. Cekander or Ms. Struble and are very happy with the care their children receive. I contacted Child D's grandmother (legal guardian) on 2/3/2023. She reported that Child D loves Ms. Cekander and she has only had small issues like a child biting another child, which has never concerned her as she knows it is developmentally normal and she feels the child care staff members have always communicated and appropriately addressed any of her concerns.

On 2/3/2023 I completed another onsite inspection and interview with Ms. Cekander. She reported that just prior to my arrival at the center Child A's team along with Child A's mother had just completed a behavioral plan meeting. At the meeting Child A's mother did not bring up this incident and still has not reported to them any information regarding seizures or special medical treatment. Child A's mother stated in the meeting she is happy with the educational progress that Child A is making but transportation continues to be a struggle for her. Ms. Cekander reported that the only time Child A has bumped his head while having a tantrum in her arms was back at the end of November. She recalls sitting down on the floor, bringing Child A to her lap and holding him to attempt soothing strategies. Child A was screaming and thrashing around and fell forward onto the carpet face first. Child A continued to scream and thrash as she immediately picked up Child A after Child A fell forward. There were no mark or bruise on Child A's forehead. Ms. Cekander informed Child A's mother that evening and did not hear anything more about it. Child A continued to attend the center as usual. Then at the beginning of January Child A's mother asked them for bus tickets for transportation and they were unable to provide them to her. This made Child A's mother very upset, and she told them she was calling the authorities to report the incident when Child A hit his head because she had to

take him to the doctor for seizures since then. Ms. Cekander has asked for medical records and instructions on how to handle Child A's seizures and have not received any to this date. Ms. Cekander said Child A's mother could not tell them the date she took Child A to the doctor. As transportation is an issue it seems implausible that she would have taken Child A to a hospital in Detroit for treatment. Ms. Cekander said that Child A did not have any marks or bruises whatsoever and although Child A's tantrum lasted at least 30 minutes once Child A was placed on the bus and they took off his socks Child A calmed down.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.8125	Staff; volunteer; requirements.
	(1) All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.
ANALYSIS:	Ms. Cekander provided appropriate care and supervision of Child A while Child A was having a tantrum.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in the license status.

Charnell Lennox

2/10/2023

Charnell Lennox
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Yolanda Sims

2/10/2023

Yolanda Sims
Area Manager

Date