



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

September 20, 2023

Jeanette Davis
Woodlawn Preschool
1175 W. Territorial
Battle Creek, MI 49015

RE: License #: DC130016361
Investigation #: 2023D0267016
Woodlawn Preschool

Dear Jeanette Davis:

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.
- R 400.8140(2)(a) Discipline.
- R 400.8158(2)(b) Incident, accident, injury, illness, death, fire reporting.
- R 400.8140(2)(d) Discipline.

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

- I interviewed the program director/licensee designee, child care staff members, volunteer, and parents.
- I completed on-site inspection on the following date: 8/9/2023.

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

- R 400.8125(1) Staff; volunteer; requirements.**
- R 400.8140(2)(d) Discipline.**

I recommend no change to the current license status.

Due to the violations, you must send us a corrective action plan by 10/10/2023. You can use our [corrective action plan](#) form or create your own.

If you need help writing the corrective action plan, please contact me. 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.	☐	☒
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 the enclosed documentation for accuracy and contact me with any questions. In the event that I am not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the local office at (517) 284-9730.

Sincerely,



Julia Majka, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Bureau
611 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30837
Lansing, MI 48909
(269) 615-6039

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CHILD CARE LICENSING BUREAU
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DC130016361
Investigation #:	2023D0267016
Complaint Receipt Date:	08/08/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	08/09/2023
Report Due Date:	10/07/2023
Licensee Name:	Woodlawn Preschool
Licensee Address:	1175 W. Territorial Battle Creek, MI 49015
Licensee Telephone #:	(269) 963-7334
Administrator:	Jeanette Davis, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Jeanette Davis, Designee
Name of Facility:	Woodlawn Preschool
Facility Address:	1175 W Territorial Battle Creek, MI 49015
Facility Telephone #:	(269) 963-7334
Original Issuance Date:	N/A
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	04/24/2023
Expiration Date:	04/23/2025
Capacity:	60
Program Type:	CHILD CARE CENTER

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Appropriate care was not provided by an unsupervised volunteer when they shoved Child A and B around by their heads.	No
The program director, Jeanette Davis, is aware of the shoving and did not notify Child A and B's mother.	No
Child A had bruises on his legs that could be from prohibited forms of discipline such as pinching.	No
Child care staff members tell the children they are bad and they need "whoopings."	Yes
Child care staff members cuss around and at the children.	Yes
Child care staff members do not provide appropriate care and supervision when they leave the children unsupervised in the room. The children are made to supervise special needs children while the child care staff members are absent from the room.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

08/08/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0267016
08/09/2023	Contact – Face to face Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) worker, Miranda Foster interviewed Child A and B's mother
08/09/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site Arrived at 1:10pm; Left at 3:00pm Interviewed program director/licensee designee, Jeanette Davis, child care staff member (CCSM) 2, CCSM 3, and CCSM 4
08/14/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Telephone contact made with CCSM 1, CCSM 5, and Child C's mother
08/29/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Telephone contact with Child D's mother, Child E's mother, and Child F's mother

08/29/2023	Exit conference with program director Jeanette Davis
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ALLEGATION: Appropriate care was not provided by an unsupervised volunteer when they shoved Child A and B around by their heads.

INVESTIGATION: On August 9, 2023 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) worker, Miranda Foster, interviewed Child A and B's mother at their home. Child A and B's mother told Miranda Foster that she was told about the unsupervised volunteer's (UV) behavior towards Child A and B by child care staff member (CCSM) 1. CCSM 1 told Child A and B's mother that she was not there on the day UV shoved the children around by their heads, but that it was caught on camera. She stated the last day the children were in care was on August 1, 2023, but she was told by CCSM 1 that the incident happened on July 31, 2023.

On August 9, 2023 Miranda Foster and I completed an unannounced onsite inspection at the facility and interviewed Jeanette Davis, CCSM 2, CCSM 3, CCSM 4 and the UV. Jeanette Davis reported that she was aware of the alleged concerns with UV. She was walking into the classroom where UV works and thought she saw her pushing Child A by his head. She left the room and went to view it on the camera. The camera recording showed UV guiding Child A by the head, but it was not aggressive. Jeanette Davis reported she still felt slightly uncomfortable about it, because she has talked with UV repeatedly about not acting as a child care staff member, but only being there to read with the children and provide comfort if needed. UV was asked to leave for the day and Jeanette Davis spoke with UV's boss at Community Action about having her assigned to a different child care. Jeanette Davis stated again, UV has not had any issues with discipline, but she tries to get too involved and acts like a child care staff member. Miranda Foster and I reviewed the camera footage of UV and Child A. It did appear that UV simply guided Child A away from the bathroom and towards circle time with the rest of the children. Jeanette Davis stated Child A and B only attended the facility for 2 weeks and they did not attend every day.

CCSM 2 reported that she works in the office and has heard of the concerns regarding UV, but she has not seen anything. CCSM 3 said she is the lead in the classroom with UV and she has never had any concerns with her discipline. She said UV does speak loudly and child care staff have talked with her about that, but CCSM 3 believes it is an issue with her hearing. CCSM 3 said UV does help redirect the children by grabbing their hands or holding them by the wrist, but it is not aggressive. CCSM 3 was on vacation the day the concerns came about regarding UV. She did send a message to Child A and B's mother upon her return asking if everything went fine while she was gone. Child A and B's mother did not report any concerns. CCSM 4 stated that she does not normally work with UV, but she did on the day of the alleged incident, but she does not know if she was in the room when it happened.

She stated she did not see UV do anything wrong towards any children. CCSM 4 said Child A and B are a lot to handle, but UV mainly just sat in her chair on that day. UV stated she has been a volunteer at the facility for over eleven years. She said she loves the children like they are her own and she would never hurt any of them. One day she was there, and a worker came in to tell her she needed to go home. UV stated she did not know why she was being sent home. She stated she has tried to help keep Child A and B at the carpet because they often run off, but she has not grabbed them hard or shoved them. UV stated her main role at the facility is to read to the children, clean the tables, and play with the children. She reported that today is her last day and she is being assigned somewhere else. She does not understand why this is happening.

On August 14, 2023, Miranda Foster and I made telephone contact with CCSM 1, CCSM 5, and Child C's mother. CCSM 1 stated that she does not work at the facility anymore, but she did previously work with UV. She was not present the day of the alleged incident, but she has had concerns with UV grabbing children by the wrist a little too hard when they are trying to run away from the group or when she was guiding them back to the carpet for circle time. CCSM 1 stated that UV also yells at the children. CCSM 5 said she was working at the time of the alleged incident, but it happened behind her back. She has been told that UV needs to be supervised closely when working in that room because she tends to take liberties and act like a child care staff member. On that day Jeanette Davis pulled CCSM 5 out of the classroom and said they were going to ask UV to leave for the day. She was shown the video of UV and Child A but did not see it happen in the classroom. Child C's mother reported that her child is no longer in the room where UV works, but she was previously. She did think that UV spoke loudly, but it's because she cannot hear well.

On August 29, 2023, Miranda Foster and I made telephone contact with Child D's mother, Child E's mother, and Child F's mother. Child D's mother said that her child is in the room with UV, and she likes her. She goes to UV easily and Child D's mother has never had any concerns with UV. Child E's mother said her child is no longer in the classroom with UV, but when she was, she did not like her. She did not ever see any inappropriate discipline or know by Child E did not like UV. Child F's mother stated she thinks UV speaks too loudly, but it is because she is hearing impaired. She has never had any concerns with UV.

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:	Miranda Foster and I reviewed the camera footage of the unsupervised volunteer and Child A on the day of the allegations. The video showed the unsupervised volunteer guiding Child A away from the bathroom and back to the carpet. She provided appropriate care and supervision. Multiple child care staff members and parents reported that the unsupervised volunteer speaks loudly, but this is due to being hearing impaired and not a method of discipline.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: The program director, Jeanette Davis, is aware of the shoving and did not notify Child A and B's mother.

INVESTIGATION: During Miranda Foster's interview Child A and B's mother stated program director, Jeanette Davis, is aware of the incident and did not inform her anything happened. Jeannette Davis stated that she did not report the incident to Child A and B's mother because there was nothing to report. I reviewed the video footage, and did not see any inappropriate contact that would require an incident report to Child A and B's mother.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.8158	Incident, accident, injury, illness, death, fire reporting.
	(2) A licensee, licensee designee, or program director shall report to the child's parent and the department, directly or via phone, fax, or email, within 24 hours of the occurrence of any of the following: (b) An incident involving an allegation of inappropriate contact.
ANALYSIS:	Child A and B's mother stated she was not notified of the incident between the unsupervised volunteer and Child A. Jeanette Davis stated she did not notify the parent because there was no inappropriate contact. I reviewed the video footage, and a report would not be required.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: Child A had bruises on his legs that could be from prohibited forms of discipline such as pinching.

INVESTIGATION: During Miranda Foster’s interview with Child A and B’s mother she asked to see the bruises on Child A, but Child A and B’s mother reported they were no longer there. She provided photos of the bruises. The bruising appeared to be normal toddler bruising and do not show signs of fingerprints from grabbing or pinching. Miranda Foster noted that Child A and B were throwing items, fighting each other, and biting each other during her onsite visit. They were not able to be interviewed due to their age.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.8140	Discipline.
	(2) All of the following means of punishment are prohibited: (a) Hitting, spanking, shaking, biting, pinching, or inflicting other forms of corporal punishment.
ANALYSIS:	Miranda Foster interviewed Child A and B’s mother and she provided photos of bruising on Child A she felt could be from being pinched or grabbed. I reviewed the photos, and they appear to be normal toddler bruising from play. There were no child care staff members or parents who report seeing any pinching or grabbing at the facility.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: The child care staff members tell the children they are bad and they need “whoopings.”

INVESTIGATION: Jeanette Davis said she has never heard any of the child care staff tell children they are bad or that they need “whoopings”. CCSM 1 stated she has heard child care staff tell children they are going to get a “whooping” if they don’t listen. She believes it is said in a joking manner, but does not agree with it being said. CCSM 2 said she has never heard anything like that from child care staff and the office is very close the child care rooms. CCSM 3 said she has heard child care staff say things like, “Quite being bad or I’m going to call your mom.” She has never heard anyone say anything about “whoopings”. CCSM 4 said they are not allowed to say things like that to the children and she has never heard it in the facility. CCSM 5 said she has heard child care staff joke around about giving “whoopings”. It is not meant as a method of discipline, but it does make her uncomfortable.

Child A and B’s mother said she has not heard child care staff members say anything wrong, but has been told by CCSM 1 that the children are being told they need “whoopings” and that they are bad. Child C’s mother stated she has heard child care staff tell children they are being bad. Child D’s mother and Child E’s mother said they have not heard anything inappropriate from child care staff. Child F’s mother said she has heard her son call himself a bad boy and they do not speak that way at home so she figures he must have gotten it at the facility.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.8140	Discipline.
	(2) All of the following means of punishment are prohibited: (d) Inflicting mental or emotional punishment, such as humiliating, shaming, or threatening a child.
ANALYSIS:	CCSM 1, CCSM 3, CCSM 5 and Child C’s mother have heard child care staff tell children they are being bad and/or they need “whoopings.” Punishment that inflicts emotional punishment, such as, shaming or threatening is prohibited.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: All child care staff members cuss around and at the children.

INVESTIGATION: Jeanette Davis said she has not seen or heard child care staff cuss around the children. She has not had any parents or child care staff make a complaint about hearing inappropriate language. CCSM 1 said she has heard child care staff cuss around the children, but not at the children. CCSM 2 stated she has not heard any child care staff cuss at or around the children. CCSM 3 said she has heard child care staff slip a few times and cuss around the children, but it is accidental and it is not cussing at the children. CCSM 4 denied hearing any child care staff cuss at or around the child care children. CCSM 5 stated she has heard

child care staff cuss around the children. She said Jeanette Davis is actually the one that cusses the most.

Child A and B's mother said she has not heard the child care staff cuss at or around the children, but she was told by CCSM 1 that it is happening at the facility. Child B's mother stated she has heard Jeanette Davis cuss around the children, but have not heard it from other child care staff members. Child D's mother, Child E's mother and Child F's mother denied hearing child care staff members cuss at or around the children.

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:	CCSM 1, CCSM 3, CCSM 5, and Child C's mother report they have heard child care staff, and Jeanette Davis, cuss around the children. All child care staff should provide appropriate care of children at all times.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: Child care staff members do not provide appropriate care and supervision when they leave the children unsupervised in the room. The children are made to supervise special needs children while the child care staff members are absent from the room.

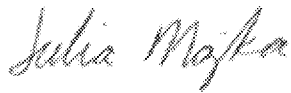
INVESTIGATION: Jeanette Davis said she has not seen child care staff leave the classrooms unattended. They only have one special needs child and she is "a runner" so she has to be supervised very closely. Child care staff would never leave other children in charge of the room. CCSM 1 said she has not seen child care staff leave the rooms unattended. CCSM 2 said she works in the office and child care staff do come in and hang out, but they are on break and they're not leaving the children unsupervised. CCSM 3 said child care staff do hang out in the office, but there is always at least one child care staff in the rooms supervising. She said ratio may be an issue while child care staff leave the room, but she is not sure because she does not work in other rooms. CCSM 4 said Jeanette Davis or CCSM 1 will often step in to help supervise the children if a child care staff member needs a break. She said the children are not being left unsupervised. CCSM 5 said she has not seen any rooms left unsupervised or seen any children left to provide supervision.

Child A and B's mother, Child C's mother, Child D's mother, and Child F's mother stated they have not seen the rooms left unsupervised.

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:	Child care staff members and parents did not report any issues with the rooms being left unsupervised or children being responsible for supervising other children. Child care staff members are providing appropriate supervision.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan; I recommend no change to the current license status.



9/20/2023

Julia Majka
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



09/20/2023

Charnell Lennox
Area Manager

Date