



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

MICHELLE RICHARD
ACTING DIRECTOR

01/09/2024

Little Scholars Preparatory School, LLC
1754 E. Clark Road,
Lansing, MI, 48906

License Number: DC190315717
Special Investigation Number: SI-00078702

Dear Little Scholars Preparatory School, 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 400.8380(1)	The premises must be maintained in a clean and safe condition and must not pose a threat to health or safety.

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

- I interviewed: the complainant, program director, child care staff members and parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 10/25/2023

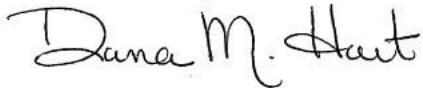
As a result of this investigation, I recommend no change to the current license status. I did not find any violations. The special investigation report is attached.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	<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, Dana Hart at (517) 388-4625 or hartd8@michigan.gov. In the event that Dana Hart is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,



Dana M. Hart, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

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

THIS REPORT CONTAINS QUOTED PROFANITY AND/OR SEXUALLY EXPLICIT LANGUAGE.

Report Type: Special Investigation Report

Date of Report: 01/09/2024

Special Investigation Number	Complaint/Incident Receipt Date
SI-00078702	10/17/2023
Investigation Initiation Date	Report Due Date
10/25/2023	//
License Number	Licensee Name(s)
DC190315717	Little Scholars Preparatory School, LLC
Facility Name	Licensee Designee(s)
Little Scholars	Audrey Lynn Pallone-Bugeja Miranda Lynn Carter
Program Type	Central Administrator(s)
Center	N/A
Capacity	Program Director(s) Name
70	Miranda Lynn Carter Qualifications: Associate degree in Applied Arts with a Major in Child Dev. and Early Ed. and 3 credit hours in Early Childhood Program Admin. Date PD Approved: 04/04/2022
Facility Address	Mailing Address
1754 E. Clark Road, Lansing, MI, 48906	1754 E. Clark Road, Lansing, MI, 48906
Facility Phone Number	Facility Email Address
5179935195	info@littlescholarsprep.com
Original License Issuance Date	License Status:
4/5/2012	Regular
License Effective Date:	License Expiration Date:
11/18/2022	11/17/2024

ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?	
Child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM2) yelled profanities at Child A and shook him. She also grabbed another infant by their arms in an attempt to move them out of the way.		No
Mold was found on the bottom of the rocking chairs in the infant room.		No

METHODOLOGY

Date	Activity
10/25/2023	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00078702
10/24/2023	Contact – Phone Call Received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complainant: Voicemail
10/24/2023	Contact – Phone Call Received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complainant: Interviewed
10/24/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complainant: Voicemail Left
10/25/2023	Contact – Email Received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program director: Miranda Carter
10/25/2023	Special Investigation Initiated via On-site from approximately 8:55 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewed: program director, Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM 1), CCSM 2, Child Care Staff Member 3 (CCSM 3), Child Care Staff Member 4 (CCSM 4) and Child Care Staff Member 5 (CCSM 5)
11/8/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child B’s Mother: interviewed • Child C’s Mother: voicemail left
11/8/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child D’s Mother: voicemail left
11/8/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child A’s Mother: unable to leave a voicemail
11/8/2023	Contact – Phone Call Received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child C’s Mother: interviewed • Child D’s Mother: interviewed
11/9/2023	Exit Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program director: Miranda Carter

ALLEGATION: Child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM 2) yelled profanities at Child A (11-month-old male) and shook him. She also grabbed another infant by their arms in an attempt to move them out of the way.

INVESTIGATION: On 10/24/2023, I interviewed the complainant. The complainant reported that on 10/17/2023, while at the facility, CCSM 1 told the complainant that she had reported to the program director, Miranda Carter, that while CCSM 2 was working in the infant room, she became frustrated and manhandled Child A. CCSM 2 said, “fuck you, fuck you baby, fuck you” to Child A and then slammed him into the bouncer. The complainant could tell that CCSM 1 was upset stating this information, because she was shaking and taking deep breaths. The complainant did not witness this happening. However, approximately two weeks prior to this happening, while in the infant room, the complainant witnessed CCSM 2 grab an infant by the arm and say “ughhh” and then moved the infant to another space by grabbing him by his arm. CCSM 2 eventually put the child back in the Boppy so he could hold his bottle and feed himself. The complainant asked CCSM 2 if she needed a break and CCSM 2 said she did not and that she was just playing with the infant. The complainant further reported that CCSM 2 yells at the infants. The complainant did not report these concerns to the program director.

On 10/25/2023, I interviewed program director Miranda Carter. She reported that on 10/17/2023, CCSM 1 came to her and reported that when she was in the infant room with CCSM 2, she had witnessed her picking Child A up and then putting him down into the Exersaucer rougher than she was comfortable with. Miranda Carter then went and talked with CCSM 4, who was present in the infant room along with CCSM 2. CCSM 4 told her that she thought CCSM 2 had muttered something under her breath, but she was not sure what she said, and she did not have any concerns with how she picked Child A up and down. Miranda Carter then spoke to CCSM 2. She told her that she said she felt like she was having a bad day, and she was frustrated with some personal stuff. She told CCSM 2 to be more mindful and careful with her interactions. CCSM 2 left for the day following the conversation, because it was the end of her shift. Miranda Carter did not ask her about the swearing at Child A, because she did not find out about that until later. She said she does not have any concerns with CCSM 2, she is receptive to criticism, she has never been formally written up for anything, she can be loud, but feels that is just part of her personality and that it does not interfere with her caring for the children. She further reported that she has never witnessed CCSM 2 grabbing infants by their arms or handling them in a rough manner, she also has never heard her use profanity.

On 10/25/2023, I interviewed CCSM 1. She reported that on 10/17/2023, when the incident occurred, the infant room was loud and the child care staff members were busy with getting lunch and preparing the children for naps. She said that CCSM 2 was not yelling at Child A. When she was feeding a child in a highchair, she had heard her say, “I can’t fucking do this”. CCSM 1 thinks CCSM 2 was just making a statement and that it wasn’t directed at any one child. She picked Child A up and placed him in a jumper, stating she may have been rougher than she thought was appropriate, but she did not

cause any harm to Child A. CCSM 1 further reported that CCSM 2 follows the schedules, she's never had any concerns with her before, she did not feel like this incident was abusive, and she thinks that CCSM 2 was just overwhelmed at the time. She said when she spoke to Miranda Carter about it, she told her that CCSM2 needed a break, because she seemed overwhelmed, she picked up a child hastily and put them down roughly and she cannot remember if she mentioned the swearing to her specifically or not.

On 10/25/2023, I interviewed CCSM 4. She reported that she does not have any concerns with any child care staff member (CCSM) using profanity around children and she has never witnessed a CCSM picking any of the children up by their arms or slamming them down into a bouncy chair. She said that on the day of the incident, CCSM 2 was cleaning the highchairs and Child A was crawling to grab the food on the floor, so CCSM 2 picked him up and moved him to the bouncer, she did not feel she did so roughly.

On 10/25/2023, I interviewed CCSM 3. She reported that she has never had a problem or concerns with CCSM 2. She has never heard her use profanities, she is gentle, patient, helps out and never raises her voice.

On 10/25/2023, CCSM 5 reported that she has never witnessed CCSM 2 using profanities. She speaks calmly to the children. She has not witnessed CCSM 2 handle any infant aggressively, she had only heard from CCSM 1 that she had put a baby down aggressively and that she had mumbled "fuck you" to the baby or something like that.

On 10/25/2023, I interviewed CCSM 2. She reported that she has worked at the facility for approximately six months. She said she has never said any profanities to a child, she might have mumbled something under her breath, but she could not be for certain. She said that she did not handle Child A roughly, he was rolling away from the Boppy and she steered him into a different direction. Sometimes she makes grunting/snorting noises when she plays with him, but it's just something funny she likes to do with him and he seems to like it. She said she has never slammed Child A down into a bouncy seat or Boppy, "No, that would be crazy. Maybe if he kept getting up, I may have to flop him over. Someone may see me tickling him and making noises [and interpret that] as shaking him." On 10/17/2023, she said she was having an off day dealing with some personal stuff and she made have been a little more impatient than normal. She said that she knows she can take a break if she needs one, and she can talk to Miranda Carter if she needs something.

On 10/25/2023, I was able to observe CCSM 2 working in the Tots Room. She was sitting on the floor with the children during story time. She was hugging children at their level, talking to them in a quiet voice and moving from child to child to attend to their wants and needs. She encouraged the children to take turns. I observed her changing a diaper of a child and she talked to them calmly and was positive and encouraging to the child. She was actively engaged with the children; she followed their cues as to what they wanted or needed, and she quickly assisted the other CCSMs where she was

needed. I saw no signs of her raising her voice, handling children roughly or becoming frustrated.

On 11/08/2023, I interviewed Child B's Mother. She reported that Child B (11-month-old male) has attended since January of 2023. She said she has never heard any CCSM use profanity and she does not have any concerns with how CCSMs interact with the children. In fact, Child B had some extensive medical issues and the CCSMs have been great with him and meeting his needs.

On 11/08/2023, I interviewed Child C's Mother. She reported that the CCSMs who work with Child C (9-month-old male) in his room have been really good. She has never heard a CCSM use profanity and she has no concerns with how they interact with the children.

On 11/08/2023, Child D's Mother reported that she has no concerns with cleanliness of the center, and she has never heard a CCSM use profanity around the children, "They have all been wonderful with Child D (15-month-old male)".

On 11/08/2023, I attempted to call Child A's Mother, but was unable to leave a voicemail message.

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 was not enough evidence to substantiate that CCSM 2 yelled profanities at Child A and shook him, or that she grabbed another infant by their arms in an attempt to move them out of the way.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: Mold was found on the bottom of the rocking chairs in the infant room.

INVESTIGATION: On 10/24/2023, the Complainant reported that on one occasion, a couple of weeks ago, while assisting with mopping the infant room floor, CCSM 4 told the Complainant to move the rocking chairs to clean underneath them. That is when the mold was observed on the bottom of the rocking chairs. In addition, the Complainant has some other concerns with the cleanliness of the center. Even though the floors are cleaned on a regular basis, the children still have dirty socks; the Complainant has

witnessed ants around the sink in the preschool room; the changing pad on the changing table is dirty even after it has been cleaned and sanitized; and the Complainant heard that a dead mouse was found in one of the toilets in the preschool/kindergarten bathroom.

On 10/25/2023, Miranda Carter reported that all of the CCSMs have daily cleaning tasks. The floors in the infant room are cleaned daily and mopped twice a day. The carpet in the center was replaced in approximately April of 2022 and are steamed cleaned on a regular basis. She said that a CCSM came to her as soon as they noticed something black on the bottom of the rocking chairs in the infant room. She could not be for certain if it was mold, but thinks it was just built-up dirt from the rocking chairs being placed on top of a wet floor. She immediately ordered new chairs and the old chairs were no longer present at the facility. She stated there was one instance when there were ants around the sink of the preschool room, but once it was cleaned, they never had an issue with ants again. The changing pads are washed, rinsed and sanitized after each use, so they are clean; however, they are dingy in color. Miranda Carter further reported that sometime in July of this year, a mouse trap was set after the children had left for the day and a mouse was caught. Since then, there are no other signs that a mouse has been present in any of the rooms.

On 10/25/2023, CCSM 1 reported that the building is vacuumed every night, and when parents started to complain about their infant's knees being black, she started mopping the infant room during nap time. She believes the black on the bottom of the rocking chairs, was probably caused by mopping and the bottoms getting wet during the process. When she noticed that the bottom of the rocking chairs were black, she told Miranda Carter and she ordered new chairs. She had no concerns with the changing pads on the changing tables and has never witnessed any ants or mice at the center, she has only heard that the center has had one or two mice before.

On 10/25/2023, CCSM 4 reported that she does not have any concerns with the cleanliness of the center. The carpets have been cleaned and are vacuumed and mopped every day; the changing pads are washed, rinsed and sanitized after each use; she has never seen any ants at the center and there was only one mouse that was found that she is aware of.

On 10/25/2023, CCSM 2, CCSM 3 and CCSM 5 all reported they do not have any concerns with the cleanliness of the center.

On 10/25/2023, while on-site, I did not notice any lack of cleanliness at the center. The floors were clean and well maintained. Upon observing all three of the changing pads, all of them were clean and well maintained, other than dingy in color. Miranda Carter stated that she would order new changing pads to replace them so they would not appear to be unclean.

On 11/08/2023, Child B's Mother, Child C's Mother and Child D's Mother did not have any concerns with the cleanliness of the center. Child C's Mother reported that one time

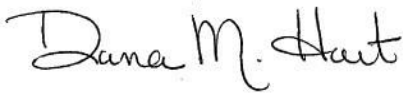

the shelves in the infant room were not clean, but as soon as it was brought to the attention of the CCSMs, it was taken care of.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8380(1)	The premises must be maintained in a clean and safe condition and must not pose a threat to health or safety.
ANALYSIS:	The premises were maintained in a clean and safe condition and did not pose a threat to health or safety.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

BUREAU RECOMMENDATION

Bureau Recommendation
I recommend no change to the current license status.

Approved By:			
	01/09/2024		01/09/2024
Dana M. Hart Consultant	Date	Darlese McConnell Area Manager	Date