



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

June 5, 2023

Kaitlin Allen  
Spartan Kid Care Inc  
1730 Crescent Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

RE: License #: DC330018010  
Investigation #: 2023D0109013  
Spartan Child Development Center

Dear Ms. Allen:

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing bureau 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 assistant program director, licensee designee, child care staff members, and parent.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 05/08/2023.

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

**R 400.8125(1) Staff; volunteer; requirements**

I recommend issuance of a 1<sup>st</sup> provisional license. If you accept the provisional license, you must sign and return the enclosed waiver form. If you do not accept the provisional license, the matter will be forwarded to the disciplinary unit.


The special investigation report is attached. Due to the violation(s) identified in the report, a written corrective action plan was required. On 05/08/2023, you submitted an acceptable written corrective action plan.

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 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,



Karen Woodman, Licensing Consultant  
 Child Care Licensing Bureau  
 611 W. Ottawa Street  
 P.O. Box 30664  
 Lansing, MI 48909  
 (517) 285-9301

enclosure

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

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	DC330018010
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2023D0109013
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	05/04/2023
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	05/08/2023
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	07/03/2023
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Spartan Kid Care Inc
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	1730 Crescent Road East Lansing, MI 48823
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(517) 353-5154
<b>Administrator:</b>	Kaitlin Allen, Designee
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	Kaitlin Allen, Designee
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Spartan Child Development Center
<b>Facility Address:</b>	33 Crescent Road East Lansing, MI 48823-5705
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(517) 353-5154
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	08/17/1981
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	02/19/2022
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	02/18/2024
<b>Capacity:</b>	140
<b>Program Type:</b>	CHILD CARE CENTER

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Child A (2-year-old male) ran into the woods and hid in the bushes. He was found approximately 10 minutes later.	Yes

## III. METHODOLOGY

05/04/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0109013
05/08/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site Arrival time: 9:15 A.M.; Departure: 11:15 A.M. Interviewed Licensee Designee and Program Director Kaitlin Allen; Child Care Staff Member (CCSM) 1, CCSM 2, CCSM 3 and CCSM 4
05/08/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Interviewed Child A's Mother
05/08/2023	Exit Conference Exit conference with licensee designee Kaitlin Allen

**ALLEGATION: Child A (2-year-old male) ran into the woods and hid in the bushes. He was found approximately 10 minutes later.**

**INVESTIGATION:** I completed an unannounced onsite inspection on 5/8/2023. I interviewed Kailin Allen, program director and licensee designee. Ms. Allen has been the program director and licensee designee for almost a year. Ms. Allen was in her office when CCSM 1 told her there was an incident on the playground and Child A was missing for approximately 10 minutes. CCSM 1 said that the Red Room was playing on the hill area behind the center. The Red Room serves children ages 2 to 3 years old. The hill area is an area behind the center that classrooms can use if they want to play with the ramps or they need more running space. If classrooms use the hill area, there is supposed to be a CCSM stationed at the bottom of the hill at all times. CCSMs are supposed to spread out and have a global view of the area. CCSMs were not trained on the rules of using the hill area but Ms. Allen said CCSMs knew about the rules through word of mouth from other CCSMs. We discussed the importance of training all CCSMs on the rules and expectations for using the hill area, including positioning of CCSMs and using cones to form a visual barrier. Ms. Allen said that CCSM 2, CCSM 3 and CCSM 4 who were present for this

incident received a disciplinary write up. Ms. Allen sent an email to all child care staff members who work at the center telling them they needed to have a child care staff member present at the bottom of the hill if they were going to use that area.

I interviewed CCSM 1. CCSM 1 said that she was leaving for lunch at approximately 11:15 A.M. when she noticed the Red Room, playing on the hill area. CCSM 2 was “walking around frantically” then came over and told her that Child A was missing. CCSM 1 ran to the woods looking for Child A. CCSM 1, CCSM 2 and CCSM 4 were all searching for Child A in the woods. After approximately five minutes she heard CCSM 4 say, “I got him.” Child A doesn’t respond to his name and was found right off the trail in the brush. CCSM 1 walked back to the group with CCSM 4 and Child A and then talked to CCSM 2. CCSM 2 told her that they noticed Child B walking toward the hill and told her she couldn’t walk out there without them. Child B told CCSM 4 there was a person in the woods. CCSM 4 walked back to the top of the hill where the rest of the children were and counted the children. CCSMs realized they only had 11 children instead of 12 children. CCSM 2 said there is usually a person stationed at the bottom of the hill, but they didn’t have anyone stationed there at the time of the incident. CCSM 1 stated that there was no call on the walkie talks that there was a missing child and that she just happened to be on her way to her car next to the hill area. CCSM 1 called to the front desk to let the program director know what happened. After Child A was found, CCSM 1 called Child A’s Mother to let her know what happened. Child A’s Mother was just happy that Child A was found.

I interviewed CCSM 2, the lead caregiver in the Red Room. She has been employed by the center for four years. CCSM 2 said the Red Room was playing on the southside hill and all the children were at the top of the hill playing. CCSM 4 noticed Child B running towards the woods and called for her to stop. Child B told CCSM 4 she saw someone in the woods. CCSM 4 looked down the trail but did not see anyone. She brought Child B back up to the top of the hill and told CCSM 2 what Child B said. CCSM 2 and CCSM 4 did a head count and realized that a child was missing. CCSM 2 yelled to CCSM 1 who was in the parking lot. CCSM 1, CCSM 2 and CCSM 4 spread out to look for Child A. CCSM 3 stayed with the children and another CCSM from another classroom came to help supervise the children. CCSM 4 went back down the trail and found Child A who was hiding in the brush. Child A was missing for approximately 10 minutes. CCSM 2 feels the response time was quick, but they couldn’t find Child A because he was hiding in the bushes. There is usually a CCSM at the bottom of the hill but on the day of the incident there wasn’t because all the children were at the top of the hill. Child A has never run away from the group before. CCSM contacted Child A’s parents who were “relieved and thankful” that Child A was ok. CCSM 2 talked to Child A’s parents personally that afternoon. Child A’s parents were “grateful that he was ok” and apologized that he ran away and hid.

I interviewed CCSM 3, who works in the Red Room. She has been employed with the center for eight months. CCSM 3 said that the classroom was outside on the hill area. All CCSMs were around the upper hill with the children. CCSM 4 noticed Child

B walking toward the trail and walked over to her. Child B told CCSM 4 that she saw someone in the woods. CCSM 4 looked down the trail but didn't see anyone. CCSM 4 walked Child B back to the group at the top of the hill and did a head count. There were only 11 children instead of 12. CCSM 2 notified CCSM 1 of Child A missing. CCSM 2 and CCSM 4 split up to go find Child A on the trail. CCSM 4 didn't see Child A the first time she walked down the trail but found him when she walked back again. Child A was in the woods approximately 10 minutes. CCSM 3 said that Child A was "unfazed" by the situation. Ms. Allen came outside and CCSMs told her what happened. CCSM 1 contacted Child A's parents after the situation occurred. Child A's parents were "ok and happy that he was found." CCSM 3 said that there is usually a CCSM at the bottom of the hill, but they just came back from a nature walk and all CCSMs and children were at the top of the hill.

I interviewed CCSM 4, a floater who was working in the Red Room on the day of the incident. CCSM 4 has been employed with the center for three years, but the day of the incident was her first time working in the Red Room. CCSM 4 said that she and CCSM 2 decided they would go out to the southside hill. They took the children for a walk down the trails. When they came back from the walk, the children were playing at the top of the hill. CCSM 4 noticed Child B over by the trails. She walked over to get Child B, and Child B said that someone was in the woods. CCSM 4 looked down the trail but did not see anyone. After CCSM 4 brought Child B back to the top of the hill she told CCSM 2 what Child B said and then she counted the children. They realized that Child A was missing. CCSM 4 went down the trails, over to the soccer field, and through the parking lot where she saw CCSM 1 searching for Child A. CCSM 4 went toward the tennis facility and when she was walking back, she looked down the trail and saw Child A standing on the trail. His coat is camouflage, and he must have been hiding in the bushes the first time she went down that trail. CCSM 4 brought Child A back to the group and the classroom went inside. CCSM called Child A's parents and they "responded very well." CCSM 4 talked to Child A's Mother at pickup, and she said she was "happy he was ok." CCSM 4 said that when she works in the preschool classroom, CCSMs spread out around the hill but that was the one thing they didn't do when they went out on the hill with the Red Room.

During the on-site inspection I viewed the hill area and the walking trail. The hill has a dip in the center and a nature trail on the opposite side. I used a wheel tape measure to measure the distance from the building to where Child A was found. The walking trail is 112 feet from the building. Child A was found an additional 110 feet down the walking trail for a total of 222 feet from the building. Child A could not have been seen from the hill because there are bushes and trees lining the trail. The walking trail is open to the public. Mt. Hope Highway is on the other side of the trees and trail. The parents sign a contract that gives the center permission to go on walking field trips around the immediate area. I verified that all children in the Red Room had signed contracts giving them permission to go on walking field trips.

I viewed the video recording of the incident. The video does not have audio and the time is off by 2 hours, so it says P.M. but the time is actually A.M. The video shows

Child A running towards the trail at 1:17:28 P.M. (real time 11:17:28 A.M.). Child B runs toward the trail at 1:17:46 P.M. (real time 11:17:46 A.M.). CCSM 4 walks to Child B at 1:18:21 P.M. (real time 11:18:21 A.M.). CCSM 4 counts children at 1:20:04 P.M. (real time 11:20:04 A.M.). CCSM 4 goes down the trail at 1:20:45 P.M. (real time 11:20:45 A.M.) and comes back out of the trail at 1:23:41 P.M. (real time 11:23:41 A.M.). CCSM 4 goes back down the trail at 1:24:15 P.M. (real time 11:24:15 A.M.) and comes back carrying Child A at 1:26:10 P.M. (real time 11:26:10 A.M.). Based on the video footage, Child B went down the trail and was unsupervised for approximately 9 minutes 22 seconds.

I interviewed Child A's Mother. She said the center called and told her that Child A was outside playing, and he had run off into the trail for approximately five minutes. The child care staff members apologized and said they would do what they can to make sure that it won't happen again. CCSMs told Child A's Mother that the plan is to make sure child care staff members are spread out covering all entrances and exits near the trail. Child A's Mother said Child A was not affected by this incident and "it didn't faze him at all." She appreciated how the center handled the situation.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.8125</b>	<b>Staff; volunteer; requirements.</b>
	<b>(1) All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	Child Care Staff Members 2, 3 and 4 did not provide appropriate care and supervision of Child A at all times. Child A left the premises of the center without the child care staff members knowledge. Child A was unsupervised on the walking trail for 9 minutes 22 seconds.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

**IV. RECOMMENDATION**

Upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend modification of the license to a first provisional.



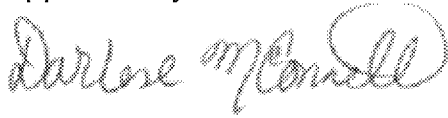
06/5/2023

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Karen Woodman  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



06/05/2023

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Darlese McConnell  
Area Manager

Date