



STATE OF MICHIGAN
 DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
 LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
 GOVERNOR

ORLENE HAWKS
 DIRECTOR

July 6, 2021

Charlene Hans
 Sunny Bunch Christian Childcare Center, Inc.
 PO Box 517
 Portland, MI 48875

RE: License #: DC340381741
 Investigation #: 2021D0206009
 Sunny Bunch Christian Childcare Center

Dear Ms. Hans:

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received a complaint against your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The allegations were related to the following:

R 400.8125(1) Staff; volunteer; requirements.

The details of the allegations are in the attached report. To investigate the allegations, I completed an onsite inspection on 5/25/2021. I interviewed: the licensee designee, child care staff members, and parents.

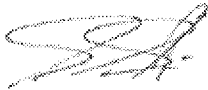
As a result of this investigation, I recommend no change to the current license status. I did not find any violations. The special investigation report is attached.

	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 (616) 356-0183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Shankin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean Shankin, Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
Unit 13, 7th Floor
350 Ottawa, N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DC340381741
Investigation #:	2021D0206009
Complaint Receipt Date:	05/21/2021
Investigation Initiation Date:	05/21/2021
Report Due Date:	07/20/2021
Licensee Name:	Sunny Bunch Christian Childcare Center, Inc.
Licensee Address:	175 Kent St Portland, MI 48875
Licensee Telephone #:	(517) 647-2418
Administrator:	Charlene Hans, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Charlene Hans, Designee
Name of Facility:	Sunny Bunch Christian Childcare Center
Facility Address:	175 Kent St. Portland, MI 48875
Facility Telephone #:	(517) 647-6088
Original Issuance Date:	08/08/2016
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	11/02/2019
Expiration Date:	11/01/2021
Capacity:	56
Program Type:	CHILD CARE CENTER

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
There was an attempted child-on-child sexual contact that occurred in the bathroom at the child care facility.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

05/21/2021	Special Investigation Intake 2021D0206009
05/21/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Phone call and text message were sent to Child A's Mother. A voicemail message was unable to be left.
05/21/2021	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone Phone call made and text message left for Child A's Mother.
05/25/2021	Inspection Completed On-site 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Spoke to the Licensee Designee Ms. Charlene Hahn, and the child care staff members Ms. Jennifer Campbell; and Ms. Gabrielle Conley.
06/03/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Spoke to Child B's Mother.
06/03/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Voicemail left for Child A's Mother.
06/03/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Spoke to the Program Director, Ms. Cheyenne Smith.
06/08/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Voicemail message left for Child A's Mother.

07/02/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Spoke to Child A's Mother; Child C and Child D's Mother; Child E's Mother; Child F and Child G's Mother; and Child H and Child I's Mother.
07/02/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Voicemail message left for Child J's Mother.
07/02/2021	Exit Conference Spoke to the Licensee Designee, Ms. Charlene Hans.
07/05/2021	Inspection Completed-BCAL Full Compliance

ALLEGATION: There was an attempted child-on-child sexual contact that occurred in the bathroom at the child care facility.

INVESTIGATION: On 5/25/2021 I made an onsite inspection at the Sunny Bunch Christian Childcare Center. During the onsite inspection, I spoke to the child care staff members Ms. Jennifer Campbell, Ms. Gabrielle Conley, and the Licensee Designee, Ms. Charlene Hans.

Ms. Campbell stated that the incident that occurred between Child A and Child B happened on 5/19/2021. Ms. Campbell stated that she was in the "AZ room" and she witnessed Child A walking to the bathroom with Child B following behind. Ms. Campbell stated that as soon as she saw the door close behind the two children, she approached the bathroom, knocked at the door and at the same time she was pulling the door open. She reported that when she entered the bathroom, she saw Child A and Child B standing in the corner of the bathroom behind the door. Ms. Campbell reported that both children were fully clothed when she entered the bathroom and noted that the door was only closed for approximately 10-15 seconds before she knocked and opened the door. Ms. Campbell stated that upon entering the bathroom she noticed that the lights were off, and she asked what had occurred. Ms. Campbell stated that while Child A would initially not say anything, she later made the disclosure that Child B "told her to do something crazy."

Ms. Campbell reported that the incident occurred later in the day after the two classrooms merged. Ms. Campbell denied that there had been any previous

concerns regarding Child B, and noted that the child care staff member, Ms. Gabrielle Conley was also present in the room at the time of the incident.

It should be noted that there was a discrepancy noted in the incident report and what was relayed during the interview with Ms. Campbell. Ms. Campbell was adamant that both children were fully clothed and that they had only been in the bathroom together for a few seconds before she arrived. However, the incident report stated that Child B had his pants down when Ms. Campbell entered the bathroom. Ms. Campbell denied this and stated that while she did not draft the incident report, the incident report was written by the Program Director, Ms. Cheyenne Smith, after providing her with an account of what transpired. Ms. Campbell suggested that there was a lapse in communication as both children remained fully clothed.

Ms. Conley informed me that she was a relatively new employee at the child care facility, and that she has only worked there for less than one month. Ms. Conley denied witnessing the two children enter the bathroom together until after this was brought to her attention from Ms. Campbell. Ms. Conley denied having any concerns or issues related to Child A or Child B in the past, but she acknowledged thinking it was odd that Child B had taken an interest in Child A prior to the bathroom incident, as she noted they were previously playing together. Ms. Conley stated that it appeared strange to see the two playing together, as there is a 4-year age difference between the two, and since there were older children that Child B could have been interacting with in the classroom. Ms. Conley stated that since the incident had occurred, Child B has refused to play or interact with any other children in the classroom.

Ms. Hans reported that there have been some issues with Child B in the past, but she noted that this was typically just “general disobedience,” denying she has ever had concerns of inappropriate interactions between Child B and any other child care children. Ms. Hans also stated that with Child B being one of the older children, he does not like attending, and often makes statements that he wished he did not have to come to the child care facility.

I did make an inquiry in the discrepancies mentioned in the allegation on the incident report and what Ms. Campbell had disclosed. Ms. Hans stated that she was unsure what the cause of the discrepancy was but suggested that Ms. Smith would be a better person to ask, since she had drafted the report.

On 6/3/2021 I spoke to the Program Director, Ms. Cheyenne Smith. During the conversation I asked Ms. Smith about the discrepancy noted in the incident report and how Ms. Campbell refuted the point that Child A and Child B had taken off their pants. Ms. Smith stated that this was her error, noting that she attempted to draft the incident report in the evening, several hours after she had discussed the matter with Ms. Campbell. It should also be noted that Ms. Smith stated that after discussing the matter further, the child care center had come to the decision to terminate Child B’s care at the facility.

On 6/3/2021 I spoke to Child B's Mother. Child B's Mother reported that her experiences with the child care facility have changed over the years, noting that for the three years that Child B has attended, she's noticed a decline in the quality of the child care center since Ms. Smith has assumed the position of program director. Child B's Mother noted that the child care center is often short staffed and closing due to staffing issues, and she reported being skeptical of whether the child care facility was actually following Covid19 protocols, due to the frequency in which staff members have contracted the illness and the facility has needed to close. Child B's Mother then noted that over the last six months she's felt as if the child care center has been "targeting" Child B; however, when asked why she felt this way, she was unable to provide any concrete examples. Child B's Mother then stated that she did not think it was fair that Child B was being blamed for Child A following him into the bathroom. While discussing this further, Child B's Mother noted that Child B informed her that while he was using the bathroom Child A entered and closed the door. Child B's Mother stated that shortly after this, Ms. Campbell entered the bathroom. I then asked Child B's Mother if she had any explanation for why the children were found in the bathroom, standing in the corner, with the lights off if Child B was only using the bathroom, to which Child B's Mother was unable to provide a response. After this, Child B's Mother continued to note several times that she did not believe anything occurred, and that the situation was an accident.

I then inquired into whether Child B's Mother had any concerns for the level of care and supervision the child care center provides, which she denied, again noting that her only concerns had been feeling as if Child B was being targeted, and noting the frequent issues with staffing.

On 6/3/2021 and 6/8/2021 I left a voicemail message for Child A's Mother.

On 7/2/2021 I spoke to Child A's Mother, Child C and Child D's Mother, Child E's Mother, Child F and Child G's Mother, and Child H and Child I's Mother.

Child A's Mother reported that Child A has been attending the child care facility for almost 2 years. She denied having any concerns related to the child care facility, specifically regarding matters concerning the care and supervision that the child care children receive. Child A's Mother acknowledged being aware of the incident that occurred between Child A and Child B, and reported believing that the child care staff members promptly saw what was occurring and intervened prior to the any inappropriate situation occurring. Child A's Mother reported that she did not feel comfortable with Child A being around Child B after the incident, and noted that there is a part of her that is not comfortable with the idea that Child B should continue to be around Child A.

Child C and Child D's Mother reported that Child C has been attending the child care for approximately 4 years; while Child D has been attending for 5 months. Child C and Child D's Mother stated that her experience with the child care facility has been

“up and down,” and noted the center’s frequent high turnover with staff as being problematic. Child C and Child D’s Mother also believed that the high staff turnover made it difficult for her to get to know her children’s child care staff members in addition to making it more difficult for her children to bond with the staff members. Outside of the issues pertaining to the high staff turnover, Child C and Child D’s Mother denied having any concerns regarding the care and supervision that the children receive, and noted that the child care staff members appear to be attentive to the children’s needs.

Child E’s Mother stated Child E had been attending for almost 4 years when he discontinued using the child care center a few weeks back. Child E’s Mother denied that she switched child care facilities based upon her satisfaction, noting that they have another child that is school-age, so they wanted both children to attend the same child care to avoid commute times. I inquired into what her thoughts were regarding the child care facility during the time that Child E attended, which she noted was positive, and cited her only issue that she had was with the high staff member turnover. Child E’s Mother denied having any concerns regarding the level of care or supervision that Child E received while in attendance.

Child F and Child G’s Mother disclosed that Child F has been attending the child care facility for approximately 4 years; while Child G has been attending for 10 months. Child F and Child G’s Mother reported that she’s had a “good experience” while her children have attended the child care facility, noting that the child care staff members were “very responsive” to any issues that developed at the center. Child F and Child G’s Mother denied having any concerns regarding the level of care and supervision that Child F and Child G received.

Child H and Child I’s Mother reported that both Child H and Child I have been attending the child care facility for 11 months. Child H and Child I’s Mother stated that while she has not had any “concerning issues” during the time they have been enrolled, she did note that she believes the child care facility allows the children to sleep longer than they should during naptime, which has been difficult to maintain a schedule after child care hours. Despite this, Child H and Child I’s Mother reported being “pretty satisfied” with the level of care and supervision that is provided, and disclosed that child care staff members were “very responsive” in relaying information related to how the children are doing.

On 7/2/2021 I left a voicemail message for Child J’s Mother. It should be noted that I was unable to establish contact with Child J’s Mother during the investigation.

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:	During the interviews the child care staff member, Ms. Jennifer Campbell, detailed what occurred between Child A and Child B, noting that she witnessed Child A and Child B entering the bathroom. Ms. Campbell denied that anything occurred between Child A and Child B in the bathroom, disclosing the door had only been closed for approximately 10-15 seconds before she opened it. Ms. Campbell reported that both children were fully clothed, and Child B made the disclosure that Child A asked her to do something "crazy." Ms. Campbell denied that any additional disclosures were made. As a result of the incident, the child care facility decided they could no longer provide child care for Child B.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in the license status.

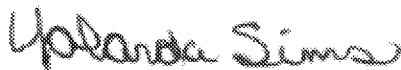


7/6/2021

Sean Shankin
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



7/6/2021

Yolanda Sims
Area Manager

Date