



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

July 3, 2023

REDACTED REPORT

Melissa Cochrell
Rockford Public Schools
350 N Main St
Rockford, MI 49341

RE: License #: DC410018405
Investigation #: 2023D0612002
Rockford Preschool Child Care Ctr

Dear Mrs. Cochrell:

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 program director, licensee designee, child care staff members, parents, children, or others with relevant information.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 03/14/2023.

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.

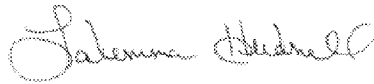
During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

You will be sent two copies of this report. One is **not for public disclosure** and one is a **redacted report**.

- The report marked **not for public disclosure** is for your records only. This copy may contain legally protected information. It must not be placed in your licensing notebook.
- The report marked **redacted report** may have some legally protected information blacked out. The **redacted report** and any related corrective action plans must be placed in your licensing notebook. The **redacted 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,



Lalemma Hudnell, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Bureau
611 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909
(616) 438-5537

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DC410018405
Investigation #:	2023D0612002
Complaint Receipt Date:	03/10/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	03/14/2023
Report Due Date:	05/09/2023
Licensee Name:	Rockford Public Schools
Licensee Address:	350 N Main St Rockford, MI 49341
Licensee Telephone #:	(616) 863-6560
Administrator:	Melissa Cochrell, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Melissa Cochrell, Designee
Name of Facility:	Rockford Preschool Child Care Ctr
Facility Address:	350 N Main Rockford, MI 49341
Facility Telephone #:	(616) 863-6560
Original Issuance Date:	11/16/1983
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	03/10/2022
Expiration Date:	03/09/2024
Capacity:	137
Program Type:	CHILD CARE CENTER

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM 1) grabbed Child A (male, [REDACTED]) [REDACTED].	No

III. METHODOLOGY

03/10/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0612002
03/14/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site From 11:35am -12:00pm and 2:00-2:24pm I spoke with Program Director Melissa Cochrell, Child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM 2) and Child Care Staff Member 3 (CCSM 3)
03/14/2023	Contact - Telephone call made [REDACTED]
03/14/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Telephone call to [REDACTED] unable to leave message on voicemail
03/15/2023	Contact - Face to Face [REDACTED] Interview with Child A, [REDACTED]
03/17/2023	Contact - Face to Face Interview with Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM 1), [REDACTED]
04/06/2023	Contact - Telephone call made [REDACTED] Child B's Mother and Child C's Mother
04/06/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Pre-Disposition Conference with [REDACTED]
04/10/2023	Contact - Telephone call made [REDACTED] interviewed Child D's Mother

04/10/2023	Contact-Face to Face [REDACTED] interviewed Child D
05/31/2023	Exit Conference w/Melissa Cochrell

ALLEGATION: Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM 1) grabbed Child A (Male, [REDACTED]).

INVESTIGATION:

On 03/14/2023, I spoke with Program Director Melissa Cochrell regarding the allegation. She stated that on 03/09/23, she called Child A's Mother regarding a separate incident and Child A's Mother told her about what happened with her son. Child A's Mother stated that Child A told her that that CCSM 1 [REDACTED]. Child A's Mother had no additional information at that time. Ms. Cochrell stated that she asked Child's Mother if she and Child Care Staff Member 4 (CCSM 4) could talk to Child A. Child A's Mother agreed as long as it was on FaceTime.

Ms. Cochrell stated she interviewed Child A in her office with CCSM 4 and Child A's Mother present on FaceTime. Ms. Cochrell provided me with a copy of her typed notes from the interview she conducted with Child A. Child A stated "[CCSM 1] [REDACTED]. She didn't do it very hard." Child A explained that the incident occurred when "Ruffles" was about to leave. He said CCSM 2 was near the other bathrooms and CCSM 3 was "making beds and doing the tables." He stated that the incident happened in the classroom next to the desk.

Ms. Cochrell noted that Child A is in a place where he doesn't want to come to the center. He has been saying that before this allegation. He recent returned to the center after some time away. She believes he got used to staying at home and is having trouble readjusting to being back in school.

Ms. Cochrell stated that Child A's Mother called her again on 3/13/23 to tell her she asked Child A to show her what happened, and he [REDACTED].

On 3/14/23, I spoke with [REDACTED]. He informed me that he had already spoke with Child A's Mother and that he has a Forensic Interview already scheduled for the following day at the [REDACTED] at 9:00am.

I spoke with Child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM 2) who stated that she has no first-hand knowledge of CCSM 1 putting her [REDACTED] Child A's [REDACTED]. She did not see it happen and she doesn't think it happened. She has never seen CCSM 1 be physical with Child A or any other child. She stated that when she asked CCSM 1 about it she denied putting her [REDACTED] Child A's [REDACTED].

I spoke with Child Care Staff Member 3 (CCSM 3) regarding the complaint. She stated that she has no first-hand knowledge of what happened CCSM 1. She said she arrives each day at noon at which time CCSM 1 takes her break. She is in the room from noon to 6pm. She did not see CCSM 1 grab Child A in any way, but she is only with CCSM 1 for about an hour and half each day. She has never seen CCSM 1 [REDACTED] Child A or any other child [REDACTED] or in any concerning way.

On 03/15/2023, Child A was interviewed at the [REDACTED]. Present for the interview was [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] and myself. Child A stated that CCSM 1 [REDACTED]. He then clarified that CCSM 1 [REDACTED] him by [REDACTED] and said, "like right here", while making a [REDACTED] motion to the [REDACTED]. Child A could not provide additional details. Child A reported that he did not want to talk about it. Child A also indicated that [REDACTED] was yelling when she [REDACTED]. I attempted to learn more about this, and Child A could not provide further detail. Child A stated that he wanted to go home. When asked if someone told him what to say today, he replied, "I don't know". When asked if someone told him what not to say, he said, "I don't know".

On 03/17/23, [REDACTED] and I interviewed Child Care Staff Member 1 at the [REDACTED].

CCSM 1 said that a child in her class said that she [REDACTED]. She said that she was appalled, speechless, and shocked. She would never do that to a child. CCSM 1 stated that Child A's Mother emailed her on Tuesday at 9:10pm asking if something happened that day in class. She responded the next morning saying that Child A had a rough day. CCSM 1 stated that she was gone that Tuesday from 9am-12pm. When she arrived, the class was getting ready to go outside. She found out the morning staff had to re-direct Child A, and she had to do a lot of redirections with him that afternoon. Wednesday morning Child A's Mother brought Child A in around 8:45am. It's normally a busy time for staff because they are doing bathroom breaks and breakfast time. She was able to talk to Child A's Mother shortly and that's when she became aware of what Child A had said. She told Child A's Mother that she had [REDACTED] Child A and that nothing similar had happened. CCSM 1 stated she told Ms. Cochrell what Child A's Mother had said. CCSM 1 said the rest of the day Wednesday was normal. Child A's Mother brought Child A back on Thursday and the drop off was normal; Child A's Mother and Child A both seemed happy.

CCSM 1 reported later on Thursday at recess, Child A was chasing another child, picked up a stick, and hit that child in the head with it, which is really out of character for Child A. She asked Child A why he did that, and he said "she beat me to the fence" referring to the girl he had hit with the stick. CCSM 1 said she told Ms. Cochrell what happened. Ms. Cochrell called Child A's Mother about the stick incident, and Child A's Mother talked with Ms. Cochrell more about the [REDACTED].

██████████ asked what happens when kids in the class get in trouble. CCSM 1 said it depends what happens. She likes to work with the children's feelings. The staff redirect the children, talk to them to explain why they don't do things, or do breathing exercises like putting their hands on their chests to feel their breathing. CCSM 1 said she is not a yeller. ██████████ asked CCSM 1 if she did anything that Child A could confuse ██████████. CCSM 1 said no. She is very mindful of touching children and the way she touches them. She does not remember touching Child A's face for any reason ██████████ asked if she had ever grabbed Child A's chin to guide it in any way, she said no. She only uses her words. She doesn't touch children's mouths or faces because she doesn't want to get sick. ██████████ asked CCSM 1 why she thinks Child A would say this happened. CCSM 1 said she doesn't know.

On 03/17/2023, ██████████ received email contact from CCSM 1 of the text exchange she and Child A's Mother had regarding Child A. The exchange begins with Child A's Mother asking if anything happened with Child A in class. CCSM 1 responded with her observations of Child A's recent behavior. Child A's Mother then requests a quick meeting to discuss further because Child A seemed emotional and had disclosed something concerning.

On 04/06/2023, ██████████ spoke with Child B's Mother. Child B's Mother stated that Child B (Female, ██████████) is in a classroom with CCSM 1 and CCSM 2. Child B's Mother explained that their experience has been largely positive, and she has not experienced anything concerning. CCSM 1 and CCSM 2 both communicate well with her. Child B has shared that she has normal squabbles over puzzles and toys, but that is it. Child B's Mother said parents received an email a bit ago about children in the class struggling with behaviors and asking parents to reinforce good behaviors at home. When she asked Child B about it, Child B said some kids were sticking their tongues out at teachers, back talking, and being rude. Child B's Mother said she asked Child B how CCSM 1 handles that and Child B said she helps everyone get along. Child B's Mother reported not having any concerns. She denied having any additional questions.

On 04/06/2023, ██████████ spoke with Child C's Mother. Child C's Mother said Child C (Female, ██████████) is in the classroom with CCSM 1 and CCSM 2. Their experience has been great, and she denied anything concerning. CCSM 1 is Child C's favorite, and Child C talks positively about her a lot.

On 04/06/2023, ██████████ stated that both her investigation and the law enforcement investigations were closed with no findings.

On 04/10/2023, ██████████ spoke with Child D's Mother. Child D's Mother provided permission for ██████████ to interview Child D using the forensic interview protocol. Child D's Mother reported no concerns with the Child D's care and that their experience has been great. Child D has not reported anything negative about the staff in the classroom.

On 4/10/2023 [REDACTED] made an unannounced visit to Rockford Pre-School where she completed a forensic interview with Child D. Child D said he is in a classroom with CCSM 1 and CCSM 2. Child D stated that sometimes CCSM 1 will yell "no". Child D stated he has not seen CCSM 1 put her hands on Child A's face or neck.

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:	Based on interviews, CCSM 1 has provided appropriate care and supervision of Child A. She did not grab Child A by the neck.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change to this child care center license.

Lalemma Hudnell

06/30/2023

Lalemma Hudnell
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Katrice Sweet

07/03/2023

Katrice Sweet
Area Manager

Date