



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

Marlon I. Brown, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

12/19/2023

Kentwood Public Schools
Lori Bramble-Romeo
3303 Breton Avenue SE
Kentwood, MI, 49512

License Number: DC410093092
Special Investigation Number: SI-00079672

Dear Lori Bramble-Romeo,
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:

| Rule/Law Number | Rule Description |
|-----------------|---|
| R 400.8125(1) | All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times. |

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

- I interviewed: licensee designee and child care staff members, attempted to speak with parents
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 11/20/2023

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, Jessica Miranda-Bevier at 616-498-5459 or mirandabevierj@michigan.gov. In the event that Jessica Miranda-Bevier is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,



Jessica Miranda-Bevier, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Bureau
(616) 498-5459

Enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CHILD CARE LICENSING BUREAU**

Report Type: Special Investigation Report

Date of Report: 12/19/2023

| | |
|---|--|
| Special Investigation Number | Complaint/Incident Receipt Date |
| SI-00079672 | 11/14/2023 |
| Investigation Initiation Date | Report Due Date |
| 11/17/2023 | 1/16/2024 |
| License Number | Licensee Name(s) |
| DC410093092 | Kentwood Public Schools |
| Facility Name | Licensee Designee(s) |
| Kentwood - Bowen Elementary | Lori Bramble-Romeo Rebecca Barrenger |
| Program Type | Central Administrator(s) |
| Center | Lori Bramble-Romeo |
| Capacity | Program Director(s) Name |
| 99 | Amy Grace Wagenmaker Qualifications: R 400.8113(14) Date PD Approved: 04/17/2032 |
| Facility Address | Mailing Address |
| 4483 Kalamazoo Avenue, SE, Kentwood, MI, 49508 | 3303 Breton Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI, 49512 |
| Facility Phone Number | Facility Email Address |
| 616-426-5311 | lori.bramble-romeo@kentwoodps.org |
| Original License Issuance Date | License Status: |
| 8/29/2000 | Regular |
| License Effective Date: | License Expiration Date: |
| 2/15/2022 | 2/14/2024 |

ALLEGATION(S)

| | Violation Established? |
|--|-------------------------------|
| On 11/14/2023 licensee designee, Lori Bramble-Romeo observed Child A (female, age 10) and Child B (female, age 10) give each other "Eskimo kisses with rubbing their noses against each other's; Child A pinched Child B on the buttocks; and Child B licked her hand and pressed it against Child A's face as if to transfer a kiss". | No |

METHODOLOGY

| Date | Activity |
|-------------|---|
| 11/17/2023 | Special Investigation Case Created SI-00079672 |
| 11/17/2023 | Contact – Phone Call Made; voicemail left for licensee designee, Lori Bramble-Romeo |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 11/17/2023 | Special Investigation Initiated via Phone Call; spoke with licensee designee, Lori Bramble-Romeo |
| 11/20/2023 | Inspection Completed On-Site; from 10:30am to 11:25pm. Spoke with program director Amy Wagenmaker. |
| 11/29/2023 | Contact – Phone Call Made; spoke with Child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM 2) on the telephone. |
| 11/29/2023 | Contact – Phone Call Made; spoke with Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM 1) on the telephone. |
| 11/29/2023 | Contact – Phone Call Made; left voicemail for Child Care Staff Member 3 (CCSM 3) on the telephone. |
| 11/29/2023 | Contact – Phone Call Made; left voicemail for Child A’s Mother |
| 11/29/2023 | Contact – Phone Call Made; left voicemail for Child B’s Mother |
| 12/05/2023 | Exit Conference; via telephone with Lori Bramble-Romeo |

ALLEGATION: On 11/14/2023 licensee designee, Lori Bramble-Romeo observed Child A (female, age 10) and Child B (female, age 10) give each other "Eskimo kisses with rubbing their noses against each others'; Child A pinched Child B on the buttocks; and Child B licked her hand and pressed it against Child A's face as if to transfer a kiss".

INVESTIGATION:

On 11/17/2023 I spoke with licensee designee, Lori Bramble-Romeo on the telephone. She said she witnessed the interaction between Child A (female, age 10 and Child B (female, age 10) on 11/14/2023. She was sitting in a room while an activity was being presented by CCSM 1. Program director, Amy Wagenmaker walked into the room. The activity being presented was similar to the “telephone” game with charades. Lori Bramble-Romeo stated she saw Child A and Child B standing next to each other with their arms on their shoulders while they were talking. She heard the girls say something about being “best friends” or “a couple.” At this point she looked up and noticed the girls had their forehead and noses touching and were giving each other “eskimo kisses.” She also saw Child B lick her hand and place her hand on Child A’s cheek. She then stood up and walked over to the girls. Before she reached Child A and Child B, she saw Child A pinch Child B’s buttocks. She does not think that CCSM 1 noticed the interaction as he was explaining the activity to the students. She was not sure if Amy Wagenmaker saw the interaction. She asked the girls to come out into the hallway with her. She said Amy Wagenmaker joined them in the hallway. Lori Bramble-Romeo said she asked Child A and Child B why she was bringing them out to the hallway. She said both girls looked at their shoes and would not look up. She continued asking the girls questions; she said she was “glad” they were friends and let them know she saw their interactions and that it was “not appropriate” to put their hands on each other, especially inappropriate touches. Lori Bramble-Romeo said that Amy Wagenmaker lead the girls

back to the room and followed up with parents that evening after the program ended. She said that this is the first time either Child A or Child B have exhibited this type of behavior.

On 11/20/2023 I made an on-site inspection at the child care center. I spoke with Amy Wagenmaker and received documents from her. Amy Wagenmaker said neither Child A nor Child B have exhibited inappropriate touching behaviors with other children. Both girls are easily redirected and there are no behavior concerns or behavior plans in place for either child. After the interaction Lori Bramble-Romeo spoke to Child A and Child B in the hallway. Lori Bramble-Romeo initiated the conversation and asked the girls why they thought they were being taken out into the hallway. Lori Bramble-Romeo told them she noticed them “hugging a lot” and “touching personal areas”; and about rubbing noses. Amy Wagenmaker said she let the girls know this type of behavior was not appropriate. She said, both girls were nodding their heads in agreement. They let Child A and Child B join the group in the room. She said she spoke to Child A’s Mother at pick up time that evening. And she texted Child B’s Mother the next day but has not heard a response back. I asked Amy Wagenmaker to send me screenshots of the texts she sent. They are on file with this report. Amy Wagenmaker let both parents know about the incident, the behaviors that were observed, and that these behaviors are not acceptable during the ARCH program. Amy Wagenmaker said that this incident would warrant a verbal warning and that the plan moving forward is to ensure staff are more aware of proximity of students, reminding children to keep hands to themselves, and if needed staff will separate students.

On 11/29/2023 I spoke with CCSM 1 on the telephone. CCSM 1 said that on 11/14/2023 they were leading out an activity and was standing near the front of the room. Child A and Child B were near the middle of the room and Lori Bramble-Romeo was in the back of the room. CCSM 1 said they were giving instructions to the group on the activity. Child A and Child B were next to each other “playing and laughing.” CCSM 1 said they asked Child A and Child B to listen to the instructions, they continued to give instructions. CCSM 1 did not observe Child A or Child B interact inappropriately with each other. Amy Wagenmaker informed him of the inappropriate interaction after the conclusion of the program that day. CCSM 1 stated that neither Child A or Child B have serious behavior concerns, they are easily re-directed and well-behaved while in the program.

On 11/29/2023 I spoke with CCSM 2 on the telephone. CCSM 2 said they were not present in the room on 11/14/2023 when Child A and Child B interacted inappropriately with each other. CCSM 2 said they have not observed Child A or Child B exhibit the kind of behavior that was exhibited on 11/14/2023. They have observed them sit close to each other and spend time together during the program. CCSM 2 stated Child A and Child B are both re-directed easily and do not have any behavior concerns.


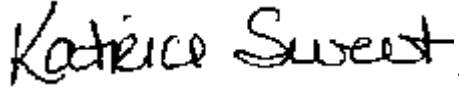
On 11/29/2023 I left voicemails for CCSM 3, Child A’s Mother, and Child B’s Mother. At the time of writing this report, I have not received return phone calls.

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: | On 11/14/2023 appropriate care and supervision was provided to Child A and Child B when Lori Bramble-Romeo observed, stopped, and redirected the inappropriate between Child A and Child B. |
| CONCLUSION: | VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED |

BUREAU RECOMMENDATION

| Bureau Recommendation |
|---|
| I recommend no change in the status of the license. |

| Approved By: | |
|---|---|
|  12/19/2023 |  12/19/2023 |
| Jessica Miranda-Bevier Consultant | Katrice Sweet Area Manager |
| Date | Date |