



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
 DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
 LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
 GOVERNOR

ORLENE HAWKS  
 DIRECTOR

December 16, 2022

Trina Romanowski  
 Birth, Toddlers & Beyond, LLC  
 716 Meadowbrook Dr.  
 Hudson, MI 49247

**RE: License #:** DC460292890

**Investigation #:** 2022D0451024  
 Birth, Toddlers & Beyond

Dear Ms. Romanowski:

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:

- R 400.8140(2)(d) Discipline.
- R 400.8140(2)(i) Discipline.

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

- I interviewed the program director, child care staff members, and a parent.
- I completed an onsite inspection on September 28, 2022.

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 (517) 284-9727.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle Gleed".

Michelle Gleed, Licensing Consultant  
Child Care Licensing Bureau  
611 W. Ottawa Street  
P.O. Box 30664  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 599-7404

enclosure

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

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	DC460292890
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2022D0451024
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	09/27/2022
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	09/28/2022
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	11/26/2022
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Birth, Toddlers & Beyond, LLC
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	716 Meadowbrook Dr. Hudson, MI 49247
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	Unknown
<b>Administrator:</b>	Trina Romanowski, Designee
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	Trina Romanowski, Designee
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Birth, Toddlers & Beyond
<b>Facility Address:</b>	1646 Sand Creek Hwy Adrian, MI 49221
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(517) 265-6264
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	01/04/2008
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	07/04/2022
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	07/03/2024
<b>Capacity:</b>	85
<b>Program Type:</b>	CHILD CARE CENTER

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
Child A (male, 3 years old) was shamed in front of approximately 15 other children when he was asked why he peed his pants. Child care staff members only use negative language and yelling, no positive reinforcement. Children are caused to develop emotional and mental complexes due to this treatment.	No
Children under the age of 3 are being placed in timeout.	No

## III. METHODOLOGY

09/27/2022	Special Investigation Intake 2022D0451024
09/28/2022	Special Investigation Initiated - Face to Face I completed an on-site inspection from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. I spoke with program director/owner Trina Romanowski, assistant director Sydney Gerig, and child care staff members Kimberly Purkey, and Maria Hernandez.
09/29/2022	Contact - Document Received Email messages exchanged with program director Trina Romanowski.
12/16/2022	Contact - Document Sent I sent an email to Trina Romanowski requesting the child information card for Child C.
12/16/2022	Contact - Document Sent I sent an email to the complainant requesting the complainant call me regarding the investigation.
12/16/2022	Contact - Telephone call made I spoke with Child A and B's Mother.
12/16/2022	Contact - Document Received I received an email from program director Trina Romanowski.
12/16/2022	Contact - Telephone call made I attempted to call Child C's Mother and the call would not go through.

12/16/2022	Inspection Completed-BCAL Full Compliance
12/16/2022	Exit conference I completed an exit conference with assistant director Sydney Gerig.
12/16/2022	Contact – Telephone call received I spoke with program director Trina Romanowski.

**ALLEGATION: Child A (male, 3 years old) was shamed in front of approximately 15 other children when he was asked why he peed his pants. Child care staff members only use negative language and yelling, no positive reinforcement. Children are caused to develop emotional and mental complexes due to this treatment.**

**INVESTIGATION:** On September 28, 2022, I spoke with program director Trina Romanowski. Ms. Romanowski reported Child A is in Ms. Purkey's preschool classroom and there was an incident where Child A's pants were wet and when Ms. Purkey noticed it, she asked Child A why his pants were wet. Child A was not sure, and neither was Ms. Purkey. Ms. Purkey took Child A to the restroom and had him change his pants just in case it was not water or from play. Child C's Mother saw this exchange and she stated she was going to call a complaint into the State of Michigan as she felt Child A was shamed for having wet pants. Child C no longer attends the center. Ms. Romanowski stated her child care staff members use positive communication; they are not allowed to yell at children, use negative language, or shame children.

On September 28, 2022, I spoke with Sydney Gerig, assistant director. Ms. Gerig stated on September 26, 2022, Child C's Mother reported there was an incident she observed which occurred in the preschool classroom and she felt that a teacher was upset with and shamed Child A because he wet his pants. Ms. Gerig stated she believes the preschool classroom had just returned from outside and they were getting ready for large group when Child A told Ms. Purkey there was something wrong with his pants. Ms. Purkey asked Child A if he needed them fixed or something. Child A reported they were wet. Ms. Purkey took Child A to the restroom, and he was changed and then returned to the group. When this occurred, the entire class was in a group on the carpet they do their group time on and Child A brought this to Ms. Purkey's attention, Ms. Purkey was confused because she was not sure why his pants were wet. However, she was not upset. I requested the video clip of this time when Child A was on the carpet until he returned to the carpet. Ms. Gerig is new to her current position and was unable to pull the video up at the time of the inspection but stated it would be emailed.

Ms. Gerig said the child care staff members do not yell at children, speak negatively toward children, shame children, or cause them to develop emotional and mental complexes. Ms. Gerig stated they use Becky Bailey's program Conscious Discipline, they have a cozy corner where children can go and calm their bodies, they have a couch, and they have calming manipulatives children can use if they need to. Ms. Gerig showed me the classroom, and each of these areas as well as the supplies used. Photos were taken.

On September 28, 2022, I spoke with child care staff member Kimberly Purkey. Ms. Purkey stated she is the preschool "teacher" and on September 26, 2022, Child A told her there was something wrong with his pants and she told him to go into the bathroom and fix them; she thought he had a wedgie. Child A explained his pants were wet. She looked and the front of his pants and they were dry, but the back of his pants were wet, "this did not make sense." His pants were light grey, and they were not that wet, but she decided to change his clothes anyway. She asked Child A questions trying to figure out why his pants were wet, but they never figured out what happened. Ms. Purkey stated she was not upset; she was confused, and Child A

seemed confused by the wet pants as well. Child A did not have tears, he was not crying, and he was not visibly upset by the situation.

Ms. Purkey stated she does not and has not heard anyone yelling or speaking negatively to children. They use positive communication and the programs Conscious Discipline and AI's Pals. AI's Pals teaches children social and emotional awareness with the use of puppets. An internet search reveals Conscious Discipline teaches emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, and goal setting/reaching.

On September 28, 2022, I spoke with child care staff member Maria Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez stated she has not, nor has she ever heard anyone speaking negatively to children, yelling at or in front of children, or shaming/emotional harming children.

On September 29, 2022, I received emails from program director Trina Romanowski. She provided the video of the incident with Child A. I requested a more complete video and she replied she was unable to pull any further footage of the incident. The video was taken on September 26, 2022, at 10:22 a.m. and shows Child C and Child C's Mother walking from the far end of the classroom across the classroom and up the stairs leading to main floor of the center. You can hear Child C's Mother state, "...then they embarrassed that little boy by calling him out about peeing his pants in front of everybody." Child C and Child C's Mother exit the classroom and then you see Child A coming from the side of the classroom where the restroom is over to the rug where the rest of his classroom was, and he rejoins his group. Child A does not appear to be emotional or upset.

On December 16, 2022, I spoke with Child A and B's Mother. Child A and B's Mother stated she viewed the video which showed Child A walking back to the carpet and sitting down; he did not appear upset at all. There was no emotion on his face. She asked Child A if he felt anyone was making fun of him on September 26, 2022, when he had wet pants and he said, "no." She asked if he felt anyone was pointing out that he had an accident or being negative and he said, "no." Child A's Mother stated if Child A is upset, he tells her as he is a very vocal child. Child A and B's Mother stated she has never seen or heard anyone at the center yelling at or in front of children, being negative toward children, or shaming children.

On December 16, 2022, I spoke with assistant director Sydney Gerig and reviewed the investigation with her. On December 16, 2022, I spoke with program director Trina Romanowski and reviewed the investigation with her.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.8140</b>	<b>Discipline.</b>
	<b>(2) All of the following means of punishment are prohibited: (d) Inflicting mental or emotional punishment, such as humiliating, shaming, or threatening a child.</b>

<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	There was no evidence to support the allegation that child care staff members shame children, use negative language, yell at children, or cause emotional or mental complexes for children in care.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

**ALLEGATION: Children under the age of 3 are being placed in timeout.**

**INVESTIGATION:** On September 28, 2022, I spoke with Sydney Gerig, assistant director. Ms. Gerig stated they do not use timeout for any of the children in their care, and they have not used timeout for children under the age of three.

On September 28, 2022, I spoke with child care staff member Kimberly Purkey. Ms. Purkey stated she does not use timeout and she is not aware of anyone using timeout at the center. On September 28, 2022, I spoke with child care staff member Maria Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez stated she is not aware of anyone using timeout for children.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.8140</b>	<b>Discipline.</b>
	<b>(2) All of the following means of punishment are prohibited: (i) Time out must not be used for children under 3 years of age.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	There is no evidence to support that child care staff members use timeout for children under the age of 3.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in the status of the license.

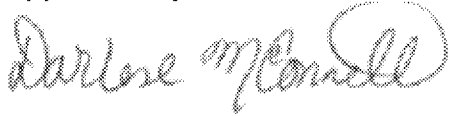


December 16, 2022

Michelle Gleed  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



12/20/2022

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Darlese McConnell  
Area Manager

Date