



STATE OF MICHIGAN
 DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
 LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
 GOVERNOR

ORLENE HAWKS
 DIRECTOR

January 10, 2023

Brittany Firman
 Mecosta Osceola ISD
 15760 190th Ave
 Big Rapids, MI 49307

RE: License #: DC540361599
 Investigation #: 2023D0791002
 Just 4s Morley Stanwood

Dear Ms. Firman:

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 400.8140(2)(a) Discipline.

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

- I interviewed the program director, caregivers, and parents.
- I completed an onsite inspection on 11/21/2022.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Schalk". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sara Schalk, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Bureau
611 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909
(231)340-2730

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DC540361599
Investigation #:	2023D0791002
Complaint Receipt Date:	11/16/2022
Investigation Initiation Date:	11/18/2022
Report Due Date:	01/15/2023
Licensee Name:	Mecosta Osceola ISD
Licensee Address:	15760 190th Ave Big Rapids, MI 49307
Licensee Telephone #:	(231) 349-2318
Administrator:	Brittany Firman, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Brittany Firman, Designee
Name of Facility:	Just 4s Morley Stanwood
Facility Address:	156 Front St Stanwood, MI 49346
Facility Telephone #:	(231) 287-3000
Original Issuance Date:	09/24/2014
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	03/25/2021
Expiration Date:	03/24/2023
Capacity:	46
Program Type:	CHILD CARE CENTER

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
A child care staff member hit Child A (male, age 4) in the face and poked Child A in the arm with something.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

11/16/2022	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0791002
11/18/2022	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone Spoke with Child A's Mother
11/21/2022	Inspection Completed On-site 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Interviews with Program Director, Barbara Buskirk, Child Care Staff Member, Claire Tefft, and Child Care Staff Member, Michelle Steiner
12/29/2022	Contact - Telephone call made Interview with Child B's Mother
12/29/2022	Contact - Telephone call made Interview with Child C's Mother
12/29/2022	Contact - Telephone call made Interview with Child D's Mother

ALLEGATION: A child care staff member hit Child A (male, age 4) in the face and poked Child A in the arm with something.

INVESTIGATION: On 11/16/2022, I received a complaint alleging that, on an unknown recent date, Child A's teacher hit him in the face. No marks were observed. Child A's teacher also poked him in the arm with something sharp.

On 11/18/2022, I contacted Child A's Mother regarding the allegations. Child A's Mother inquired why the allegations were being investigated by licensing and that an officer from Mecosta County Sheriff's Department had already been to the home last Sunday to verify Child A's well-being. At that time, Child A denied that he was hit by a child care staff member (CCSM). Child A's Mother explained that she did not believe that a CCSM hit Child A. She was explaining to someone that Child A often

makes up stories. She provided the example that Child A told her that he was slapped in the face by a CCSM, but she did not see any marks on him to indicate it had happened. Child A has been known to make up stories recently. Child A's Mother has been asking Child A how school is going, and Child A has reported having good days. Child A's Mother reports that they recently had parent teacher conferences and it was reported that Child A is doing great. Child A's Mother has no concerns regarding the care that Child A receives at school.

On 11/21/2022, I completed an unannounced onsite inspection. I met with program director Ms. Barbara Buskirk. Ms. Buskirk is the lead caregiver in Child A's classroom, and she has been the lead since the beginning of the school year when Child A started. Ms. Buskirk has never seen any child be slapped or poked by any CCSM. She stated their discipline policy is to use positive reinforcement and redirection. They do not use time outs or physical discipline. The children are never alone with only one CCSM. The classroom always has 2-3 staff members.

Ms. Buskirk stated that last week they had parent teacher conferences and Child A's Mother reported having struggles with Child A's behaviors. Child A has minimal behavioral issues in the classroom. Ms. Buskirk reports that Child A's Mother stated Child A is sometimes combative with her at home, but they do not have that experience with Child A at school. Child A plays well with others. Child A has been enrolled since the beginning of the year and is rarely absent.

I interviewed CCSM Claire Tefft, who is the assistant in Child A's classroom. Ms. Tefft denied ever seeing a child care staff member slap, hit, or poke Child A or any other child. Child A has some behavior issues, however, is not aggressive but can be verbally loud. Child A can be redirected and listens. There are usually three staff members present in the classroom. Sometimes there will be a 2/1 staff member split if someone has to go to the bathroom. Ms. Tefft has never observed any staff members to be inappropriate or physical with any of the children in care.

I interviewed CCSM Michelle Steiner. Ms. Steiner stated she has never witnessed or heard of any child care staff member hitting, slapping or poking a child in care. The center usually has three staff members present in the classroom. Ms. Steiner did not have any concerns with Child A's behavior. She has never seen any staff members be physical with any children in care. She does not have any concerns regarding any staff and how they discipline children.

On 12/29/2022, I completed interviews with Child B's Mother, Child C's Mother, and Child D's Mother. All of the mothers reported that they did not have any concerns regarding care, supervision or discipline that their children received in Ms. Buskirk's classroom.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.8140	Discipline.
	(2) All of the following means of punishment are prohibited: (a) Hitting, spanking, shaking, biting, pinching, or inflicting other forms of corporal punishment.
ANALYSIS:	There is no evidence that Child A was physically disciplined.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in license status.

Sara Schalk

1/10/2023

Sara Schalk
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Candice Case-French

1/10/2023

Candice Case-French
Area Manager

Date