



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL
LANSING

Michelle Richard
ACTING DIRECTOR

3/28/2024

Sarah McDowell
5810 Commerce Road,
West Bloomfield, MI, 48324

License Number: DC630018589
Special Investigation Number: 2024D0211274

Dear Sarah McDowell,

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:

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: program director, licensee designee, child care staff members, complainant and Child A’s Mother.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 01/10/2024 and 01/22/2024.

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, Chimere Simmons at (248) 881-6044 or simmonsc13@michigan.gov. In the event that Chimere Simmons is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chimere Simmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chimere Simmons, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL
CHILD CARE LICENSING**

Report Type: Special Investigation Report

Date of Report: 3/28/2024

Special Investigation Number	Complaint/Incident Receipt Date
2024D0211274	12/14/2023
Investigation Initiation Date	Report Due Date
1/16/2024	3/16/2024
License Number	Licensee Name(s)
DC630018589	West Bloomfield School District
Facility Name	Licensee Designee(s)
Sheiko Elementary School	Sarah McDowell Chanley Potrykus
Program Type	Central Administrator(s)
Center	Chanley Potrykus
Capacity	
167	
Facility Address	Mailing Address
4500 Walnut Lake Road, W Bloomfield, MI, 48323	5810 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield, MI, 48324
Facility Phone Number	Facility Email Address
2487383500	sarah.mcdowell@wbsd.org
Original License Issuance Date	License Status:
4/30/1990	Regular
License Effective Date:	License Expiration Date:
3/2/2022	3/1/2024

ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?	
Child B was allowed to push Child A to the ground and repeatedly scratch Child A's back over and over.		No

METHODOLOGY

Date	Activity
1/16/2024	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00117687
12/27/2023	Special Investigation Initiated via Phone Call

	Spoke with Child A's Mother
1/8/2024	Contact – Phone Call Received Missed phone call from Child A's Mother
1/8/2024	Contact – Text Message Received Text message received from Child A's Mother
1/10/2024	Inspection Completed On-Site Onsite from 4:22 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.
1/10/2024	Inspection Completed On-Site Onsite from 4:22 PM to 5:40 PM
1/22/2024	Inspection Completed – Full Compliance
1/22/2024	Inspection Completed On-Site Onsite from 10:27 AM to 11:00 AM
1/24/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Spoke with Program Director
1/26/2024	Contact – Email Received Received Documentation from Program Director
2/29/2024	Exit Conference with Program Director

ALLEGATION: Child B was allowed to push Child A to the ground and repeatedly scratch Child A's back over and over.

INVESTIGATION: On 12/27/2023, I spoke with Child A's Mother. Child A's Mother shared that Child A was severely scratched on her back by Child B in aftercare. Child A's Mother is unsure of the date the incident occurred but believes it happened during the week of 12/11/2023. Child A's Mother expressed her concern as she was appalled at the degree of Child A's injury. Child A's Mother shared that Child A's back was so severely scratched that she took Child A to the doctor and received antibiotics to ensure the deep scratches would not become infected. Child A's Mother shared that Child A attends the child care center Monday through Thursday and attends aftercare as well.

On Thursday, 12/14/2023, Child A's Mother observed scratches at the nape of Child A's neck, as she went to look closer at the scratches, Child A's Mother observed the scratches up and down the length of Child A's back. When Child A's Mother asked what happened, Child A said Child B pushed her down and scratched her back. Child A's Mother stated she took Child A to the doctor on Friday, December 15, 2023, then notified the child care staff members assigned to Child A's classroom on Sunday, 12/17/2023 via text messaging. On 12/18/2023, while dropping Child A off at the child care center, program director Chanley Potrykus was waiting to speak to her. Ms. Potrykus informed Child A's Mother that she had spoken to the staff and the staff was not aware that Child A was hurt or "assaulted" during aftercare. Ms. Potrykus told Child A's Mother that she intended to speak with the afternoon staff. Child A's Mother was told the aftercare staff members were unaware of Child A ever being hurt, Child A was not in distress, crying and showed no indication that something had happened to her.

Child A's Mother expressed concern about what happened to Child A, why she was not notified of the incident and how future incidents would be prevented. Child A's Mother stated she felt the child care center was not handling the situation appropriately and that Child A would not be returning to aftercare.

On 01/10/2024, I made an unannounced onsite inspection to the child care center from 4:22 PM to 5:40 PM. I interviewed child care staff member (CCSM) 1. CCSM 1 was aware of the situation regarding Child A. CCSM 1 stated Child A and Child B were present the day of the alleged incident. Child A was fine the day of the alleged incident, and nothing happened with any of the children. CCSM 1 stated it was a regular day during aftercare, Child A did not cry or have any reaction that would indicate that something happened. CCSM 1 had spoken to Child A's Mother before the holiday break and a meeting was held. CCSM 1 stated a meeting was held with Program Director and Child A's Mother. CCSM 1 stated the meeting consisted of listening to Child A's Mother and how she felt regarding the incident. CCSM 1 stated there was no real outcome of the meeting except they were going to try to find out what happened to Child A. CCSM 1 shared that Child no longer attends the aftercare program. CCSM 1 shared this is the first incident she has been made aware of and nothing like this has happened in the past.

On 01/10/2024, I spoke with Program Director. Program Director stated she was first notified about the incident on 12/17/2023 from CCSM 2 via text messaging, and the incident allegedly took place on 12/14/2023. CCSM 2 forwarded a text message from Child A's Mother stating that Child A had been scratched at aftercare along with photos of Child A's injuries. The message also stated that a named child was the one who scratched Child A's back. Program Director stated the named child did not exist in the child care center, however, there is a similarly named child (Child B), that is enrolled at the child care center and attends the aftercare program with Child A. Ms. Program Director stated that Child B was asked about the incident, and Child B had no knowledge of an incident or engaging with Child A.

Program Director stated that a meeting with Child A's parents was held on 12/21/2023. During the meeting, Child A's Mother expressed her concerns regarding the incident and wanted Child B expelled from the child care center. Program Director informed Child A's parents that the child care center does not "kick" children out. Program Director shared that there was not any clarifying information provided or exchanged during the meeting. Child A's parents were assured that the staff members would come up with a plan to monitor Child A more closely to ensure another incident would not occur. Program Director expressed her concern regarding the situation, as she feels both children really seem to enjoy the child care center. Program Director stated there was a period of time when Child A and Child B were in aftercare at the same time on 12/14/2023, approximately 27 minutes, but stressed no staff member, adult or children heard or witnessed Child A being injured. Program Director expressed the situation

was/is being taken very seriously, unfortunately, there is not enough information provided or evidence gathered to state the incident took place at aftercare.

Program Director shared that Child A's Mother called on 01/10/2024, to inform Program Director that another incident had taken place on 01/09/2024. Child A's Mother stated that Child B continues to pick on Child A, calling her nasty and her clothes dirty. Program Director shared that she asked Child A's Mother to encourage Child A to tell a staff member when something happens. Program Director shared that she spoke with the staff members assigned to both children's classrooms (CCSM 3 and CCSM 5). Both staff members stated that Child A and Child B do not interact with each other, and they do not go outside at the same time. CCSM 3 said they rarely see Child A in the hallway because the two classrooms are on different schedules. CCSM 3 said neither she or CCSM 6 heard or witnessed any incident between Child A or Child B. CCSM 3 continued to say that the alleged statement does not seem like something Child B would say. CCSM 5, Child A's assigned classroom caregiver, said there was not a time Child A and Child B were in the same area where an incident or interaction could take place. Program Director shared that she wasn't sure when or if the children had any opportunities to interact or come into contact with each other. CCSM 5 stated that she would be Child A's person when going to the restroom or anytime they are in the hallway and wants to ensure that Child A feels safe at the child care center. Program Director shared the school does have cameras, but the cameras are only in the hallways and not in the classrooms. Program Director expressed that she would look into obtaining the camera footage from the date of the initial incident.

On 01/10/2024, I interviewed CCSM 4. CCSM 4 stated she was aware of the situation regarding Child A and Child B and expressed that she could not recall any incidents between Child A and Child B. CCSM 4 stated Child A showed no signs of distress or being injured. CCSM 4 stated there are no incident reports from the week that Child A was hurt. CCSM 4 shared that Child A is mostly quiet and kept to herself during aftercare, while Child B is an active child that has his moments at times. CCSM 4 shared that hitting is not allowed in aftercare and whenever children have conflicts, conflict resolution strategies are used. CCSM 4 stated she will sit with the children, talk to them about the problem and offer solutions for the children. CCSM 4 stated there are typically 20 children in aftercare. During the onsite inspection, CCSM 4 shared children's attendance from the week of 12/14/2023.

On 01/22/2024, I made an unannounced onsite inspection to the child care center. I spoke with CCSM 5, who is the assigned lead caregiver in Child A's classroom. There were 17 children present with three child care staff members. CCSM 5 stated there has been no conflicts between Child A and Child B. CCSM 5 shared that the situation is being taken very seriously and they purposely ensure the two classrooms do not interact during the day. CCSM 5 stated the two classrooms have different bathroom and outside schedules. If Child A has to use the restroom outside of the scheduled bathroom times, she escorts Child A to and from the restroom to ensure Child B and/or Child B's classroom is not in the hallway during that time. CCSM 5 stated that Child A is a pleasant child who keeps to herself mostly but does play with the other children.

CCSM 5 also stated that Child A has not said anything to her regarding the incident or the alleged incident on 01/09/2024, where Child B said Child A was dirty and her clothes were dirty. During the unannounced onsite inspection, I observed Child A playing in the house area and dramatic play area. Child A appeared to be happy playing with the dolls and cooking and feeding the dolls.

On 01/22/2024, I spoke with CCSM 3, who is the assigned lead caregiver in Child B's classroom. There were 13 children present with two child care staff members. CCSM 3 stated there has not been any "real" conflicts between the children in the classroom outside of the usual argument over toys, or chairs so something like that. CCSM 3 expressed concern regarding Child A's injuries and confusion regarding the recent statement from Child A's Mother. CCSM 3 stated the two children are not in the same classroom, Child A no longer attends the aftercare program, and CCSM 3 and CCSM 5 go out of their way to ensure the children do not have a chance to interact with each other. CCSM 3 shared a time when the class was entering the building from outside and saw Child A's classroom in the hallway, CCSM 3 and CCSM 6 went in the opposite direction and around the building to avoid the two classrooms interacting. During the onsite inspection, I observed Child B in the classroom. It was work/choice time, and Child B appeared to be a very active and happy child, running and laughing with the other boys in the classroom. When CCSM 3 would stop Child B to remind him of the running rule in the classroom, Child B would smile and say okay, then continue on playing with the other children.

On 01/26/2024, I received an email from Program Director stating the footage from 12/24/2023, could not be obtained as it has been over 30 days and the footage is no longer available. Program Director provided time stamps of the hallway footage from 01/09/2024, the second alleged incident where Child B said Child A was dirty and her clothes were nasty.

1/9/2024 Video Footage

8:15 AM - Child A arrives

8:30 AM - Child B arrives

9:24 AM - Child A's class goes to gym

10:09 AM - Child A's class returns from gym

10:13 AM - Child B to bathroom with Mrs. Gener

10:15 AM - Child B back from bathroom with Mrs. Gener

10:37 AM - Child B and two other students to bathroom with Mrs. Risi

10:39 AM - Child B and two other students back from bathroom with Mrs. Risi

11:29 AM - Child B's class goes to gym

11:54 AM - Child B's class back from gym

12:03 PM - Child A's class to bathroom

12:09 PM - Child A's class back from bathroom

1:00 PM - Child B's class goes to bathroom

1:06 PM - Child B's class back from bathroom

1:39 PM - Child A's and one other student goes to bathroom with Mrs. MJ

1:45 PM - Child A's and one other student comes back from bathroom with Mrs. MJ

2:17 PM - Child B goes to bathroom with Mrs. Gener
 2:19 PM - Child B comes back from bathroom with Mrs. Gener
 2:47 PM - Child A's class gets ready for dismissal and sits by lockers (right of Child B's classroom)
 2:52 PM - Child B goes to room 23 aftercare walks left from his room (no interaction with any students)
 3:06 PM - Child A dismisses to car line.


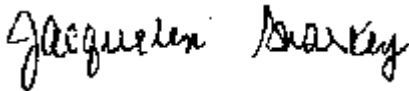
Program Director also noted the following incident that occurred on 01/24/2024 during the kindergarten showcase. Child A's Mother and Father attended the kindergarten showcase with Child A. Child A's Parents allowed Child A to join a group of children that stayed with Mrs. McDowell and Mrs. Potrykus while parents attended the showcase in a different room. Child A did not want to leave when her parents returned and "clinged" onto Mrs. Potrykus and appeared to become sad as she did want to leave. Child A and her parents left the showcase.

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:	Based on the interviews with child care staff members, Child A received appropriate care and supervision.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

BUREAU RECOMMENDATION

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

Approved By:	
 Chimere Simmons 03/21/2024 Consultant Date	 Jacquelin Sharkey 03/28/2024 Area Manager Date