



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

July 11, 2023

Deana Williams
Wee Friends Child Center II
8700 Commerce Rd.
Commerce, MI 48382

RE: License #: DC630021055
Investigation #: 2023D0019014
Wee Friends Child Care

Dear Ms. Williams:

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received information regarding your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The information was related to the following:

R 400.8125	Staff; volunteer; requirements.
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The details of the information are in the attached report. To investigate:

- I interviewed the program director, child care staff member, parents, and children.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 04/25/2023.

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.

I recommend no change to the current license status.

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,



Michelle Fruehan, Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
611 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909
(248) 672-9158

Enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DC630021055
Investigation #:	2023D0019014
Complaint Receipt Date:	04/24/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	04/25/2023
Report Due Date:	06/23/2023
Licensee Name:	Wee Friends Child Center II
Licensee Address:	8700 Commerce Rd. Commerce, MI 48382
Licensee Telephone #:	(248) 363-0500
Administrator:	Deana Williams, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Deana Williams, Designee
Name of Facility:	Wee Friends Child Care
Facility Address:	8700 Commerce Rd Commerce Township, MI 48382
Facility Telephone #:	(248) 363-0500
Original Issuance Date:	12/16/1990
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	01/31/2023
Expiration Date:	01/30/2025
Capacity:	50
Program Type:	CHILD CARE CENTER

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Child B (5-year-old, male) touched Child A's (4 year-old, female) vagina near the bookshelf in the prekindergarten classroom.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

04/24/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0019014
04/25/2023	Inspection Completed On-site from 12:45 pm to 2:00 pm I interviewed Program Director Deanna Williams and Licensee Designee Lauren Lafferty
04/25/2023	Contact - Document Received attendance records, discipline policy
04/25/2023	Exit Conference with Ms. Williams
04/27/2023	Contact - Telephone call made I called Child A's Mother
04/27/2023	Contact- Telephone call received Child A's Mother
04/27/2023	Contact - Telephone call made I called Child B's Father, left voicemail
04/27/2023	Contact - Telephone call made spoke to Child Care Staff Member (CCSM) A
05/02/2023	Contact- Telephone call received Child B's Father
06/29/2023	Contact- Telephone call made Child B's Father left voicemail
06/29/2023	Contact- Telephone call made Child A's Mother
06/30/2023	Contact- Telephone call received

	Child B's Father
07/05/2023	Contact- Telephone call made Spoke to Child B's Father and Mother
07/05/2023	Special Investigation Full compliance
07/10/2023	Exit conference with Ms. Williams

ALLEGATION: Child B (5-year-old, male) touched Child A's (4-year-old, female) vagina near the bookshelf in the prekindergarten classroom.

INVESTIGATION: On 04/20/2023 I received an incident report from Licensee Deanna Williams. The incident report stated that Child A told her mother that Child B touched her vagina behind the bookshelf in the prekindergarten classroom. Child A said Child B touched her vagina over her clothing. It is believed that the incident occurred on 04/14/2023, however, it was not reported to Ms. Williams until 04/20/2023. Child A and Child B are enrolled in the prekindergarten class, and both attend full time. Child Care Staff Member (CCSM) A is the only staff member that works in that classroom. She works alone with a maximum of 12 children ages 4 and 5 years old.

On 04/25/2023 I completed an unannounced onsite inspection at Wee Friends II in Commerce. I interviewed Ms. Lafferty and Ms. Williams.

Ms. Lafferty said that Child A's Mother approached her while she dropped Child A off in the prekindergarten room on 04/20/2023. Child A's Mother informed Ms. Lafferty that Child A told her that Child B touched and tickled her vagina two times. Child A's Mother was upset and concerned about Child A's safety at the facility. Child A did not recall the date or part of the day in which the incident occurred. Ms. Lafferty called Ms. Williams right away. Ms. Williams arrived at the center a few minutes after the call. Upon her arrival, Ms. Williams and Ms. Lafferty interviewed Child B together in the kitchen office. Ms. Williams asked Child B if he touched Child A's vagina. Child B denied touching Child A's vagina. Ms. Williams provided Child B with a doll and asked him to demonstrate how he may have touched Child A. Child B touched the dolls shoulder and hip. Ms. Williams reminded Child B not to touch other children. Child B was sent back to the prekindergarten room. There are no cameras at the center so video footage is not available.

Ms. Williams contacted Child A and Child B's parents. Child A's Mother said that Child A did not tell CCSM A because she was afraid and thought she may get in trouble. Child A's Mother asked what actions would occur and how the center would handle this situation. She said she wanted Child A and Child B to always be separated. Ms. Williams declined the request and stated she would complete an investigation. On 04/20/2023 Ms. Williams contacted Child B's Father to notify him of the incident. She asked Child B to stay home for a few days while an investigation was completed.

Child B's Father declined her request. He picked up Child B from the center and has not returned.

On 04/27/2023 I spoke to CCSM A. She stated she did not observe Child B touch Child A in an inappropriate manner and was notified of the alleged incident immediately. She stated Child A and Child B do not generally play together and she did not recall a time they were together around the time of the alleged incident. CCSM A asked Child B if he had anything he needed to tell her and he responded that he did not. Child B was sent to Ms. Lafferty and Ms. Williams to discuss the incident.

CCSM A asked Child A to show her where the incident occurred. Child A led her to a small area behind the book shelf in the book area. The book shelf is near a wall. Boxes of toys are usually behind the book shelf to block entrance to the area behind the shelf, but they were not there for a few days because CCSM A moved them. She stated that children in the class were interested in hiding plastic eggs as part of a game/play and she moved the boxes from that area so children could hide eggs there. The boxes were returned to the area behind the book shelf after children lost interest in the egg hiding game.

CCSM A said she took pictures around the date of the incident during free play. She went through the photographs but did not observe Child A and B playing together or sitting near one another at any time. She did not have any pictures of children in or near the book area. CCSM A stated there was an incident a week prior. Child B pulled down his pants to be funny. CCSM A told him not to do that (pull his pants down) and spoke to Child B's Father about the incident and asked him to talk to Child B about that behavior. CCSM A said Child B is a smart, sweet, child. He plays well with others. She does not believe that any alleged touching was malicious in nature. If it occurred, it may have been accidental.

On 04/25/2023, I completed an observation in the prekindergarten classroom. I observed the location of equipment, shelving, materials, and play areas. While standing in the middle of the room, I was unable to view the area behind the book shelf. The area behind the book shelf is a blind spot. Children could not be viewed from all areas of the room while playing in that space. I inspected the area behind the book shelf and noticed there is enough space for children to play there, however, there were materials blocking off that area. The room has several items and materials. Children moved freely in the room, but space was sometimes limited. I observed that children bumped into each other from time to time.

On 06/29/2023, I spoke to Child A's Mother. She stated on 04/20/2023, on the way to the center, Child A told her Child B touched her vagina. Child A said that Child B got angry when she took a book away from him and poked her in the vagina. Child A said it occurred in the book area but was not sure what day or time of day occurred. Child A stated it was over her clothing. Child A's Mother said that Child A has never said anything like this before and stated she told her in a very serious tone.

When Child A's Mother and Child A arrived at the center, Child A's Mother informed Ms. Lafferty what Child A told her. Ms. Lafferty told her she was not aware of this incident and would try and figure out what happened. Child A's Mother stated she requested that Child A and Child B are not in the same room. Child A's Mother said she does not have any concerns with the supervision provided. She said that the center was very forth coming about the incident and provided good communication and information throughout the investigation. She has no concerns with CCSM A or the care she provides.

On 07/05/2023, I spoke to Child B's Father and Mother. They took my call together. Child B's Father and Mother stated they were both called on the date of the alleged incident. Child B's Father spoke to Ms. William's. She told him their child was accused of touching another child's vagina and were asked to pick up Child B and keep him home for a few days until an investigation was completed. Child B's Father picked Child B up from the child care center. Child B's Father asked Child B if the incident occurred. Child B denied that he touched Child A's vagina. Child B's Father and Mother both stated that they have never observed Child B touch anyone inappropriately and the allegation was seemingly out of the blue. Child B's Father and Mother did not have immediate concerns regarding the care and supervision provided by the facility.

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:	Appropriate care and supervision was provided. Child B denied touching Child A inappropriately, and CCSM A did not witness this happen and said that Child A and Child B do not generally play together. Camera footage was not available. There is not sufficient evidence to determine a violation.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

I provided technical assistance on room arrangement and prevention of blind spots in the classroom.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in the status of this license.

Michelle Fruehan

7/10/2023

Michelle Fruehan
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Jacquelin Sharkey

7/11/2023

Jacquelin Sharkey
Area Manager

Date