



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

Marlon I. Brown, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

12/20/2023

Jamie Ouellette
Swan Valley School District
8400 O'Hern,
Saginaw, MI, 48609

License Number: DC730020811
Special Investigation Number: SI-00079928

Dear Ms. Ouellette,

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 400.8140(2)(a)	Hitting, spanking, shaking, biting, pinching, or inflicting other forms of corporal punishment.

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

- I interviewed: Program Director, Child Care Staff Members, and parents of children.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 11/22/2023

As a result of this investigation, I found the following violation(s):

Rule/Law Number	Rule Description
R 400.8140(2)(a)	Hitting, spanking, shaking, biting, pinching, or inflicting other forms of corporal punishment.

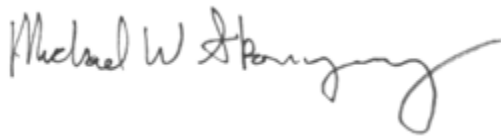
You submitted an acceptable Corrective Action Plan. Additional information is included in the report below for your review.

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, Michael Skonieczny at (989) 289-8572 or skoniecznym@michigan.gov. In the event that Michael Skonieczny is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,



Michael Skonieczny, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

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

Report Type: Special Investigation Report

Date of Report: 12/20/2023

Special Investigation Number	Complaint/Incident Receipt Date
SI-00079928	11/21/2023
Investigation Initiation Date	Report Due Date
11/27/2023	01/27/2024
License Number	Licensee Name(s)
DC730020811	Swan Valley School District
Facility Name	Licensee Designee(s)
Swan Valley Learning Center	Jamie R Ouellette
Program Type	Central Administrator(s)
Center	
Capacity	Program Director(s) Name
99	Jamie R Ouellette Qualifications: R 400.8113(7)(a) (9). Date PD Approved: 2022-11-10
Facility Address	Mailing Address
8400 O'Hern, Saginaw, MI, 48609	8400 O'Hern, Saginaw, MI, 48609
Facility Phone Number	Facility Email Address
9899212461	jouellette@swanvalley.k12.mi.us
Original License Issuance Date	License Status:
9/18/1989	Regular
License Effective Date:	License Expiration Date:
6/13/2023	6/12/2025

ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?	
Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM1) pulled Child A's (4 year old, female) hair while attempting to prevent her from running out of the room.	Yes	
Additional Finding:		No

METHODOLOGY

Date	Activity
11/27/2023	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00079928
11/22/2023	Special Investigation Initiated via Phone Call to Program Director Jamie Ouellette
11/22/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made to Child A's mother
11/27/2023	Inspection Completed On-Site from 2:30PM-4:00PM. Interviewed Jamie Ouellette (Program Director), CCSM1, CCSM2, CCSM3, and CCSM5
12/18/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made to Child B's mother. A voicemail was left.
12/18/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made to Child C's father
12/20/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made to Child B's mother. A voicemail was left.
12/20/2023	Exit Conference - an exit conference was conducted via telephone with Ms. Ouellette.

ALLEGATION: Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM1) pulled Child A's (4 year old female) hair while attempting to prevent her from running out of the room.

INVESTIGATION:

On 11/22/2023 I spoke to Program Director Jamie Ouellette on the telephone. She reported that CCSM1 attempted to prevent Child A from running out of the classroom and into the multipurpose room. CCSM1 allegedly tried to grab Child A by the shoulder but instead grabbed her hair and pulled her back into the room. Child A was taken to another classroom by Child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM2). CCSM1 was sent home.

On 11/22/2023 I received the incident report regarding the incident from Ms. Ouellette

On 11/27/2023 I completed an onsite inspection at Swan Valley Learning Center. Ms. Ouellette was spoken with. She indicated that CCSM2 and Child Care Staff Member 3 (CCSM3) were also present in the classroom at the time of the incident. The incident occurred at rest time. Child A had fallen asleep while being held by CCSM2. She set Child A down and she woke up. Child A got up and ran towards the door leading to the multipurpose room. CCSM1 chased after her and grabbed Child A's hair in order to prevent her from leaving the room. Child A has been having behavioral issues lately at

rest time. CCSM2 removed Child A from the classroom and told Child Care Staff Member 4 (CCSM4) who called Ms. Ouellette, who had stepped out for an appointment. CCSM1 was sent home and has not returned to work. Ms. Ouellette calls Child A's mother and explained what happened. CCSM1 stated that she did not intend to harm Child A, but CCSM2 and CCSM3 both felt that CCSM1's actions were non-accidental.

CCSM3 was spoken with about the incident. CCSM1, CCSM2, and CCSM3 were all in the classroom during rest time with 13 children. CCSM2 was assisting Child A in getting to sleep but Child A woke up. Child A was asked to sit quietly for a few minutes before engaging in a quiet activity, but she got up and started heading towards the door to the multipurpose room. CCSM1 grabbed Child A by the hair just as she was exiting the room and pulled her back into the room. It looked intentional and there was no chance that CCSM1 could have grabbed Child A's arm like she said. Child A seemed more startled than hurt and calmed down pretty quickly after she was taken from the room. CCSM1 was sent home.

CCSM2 was spoken with regarding the incident. CCSM2 was sitting with Child A and helped her almost fall asleep, but she woke up when CCSM2 walked away. Child A began to throw a fit and then got up and ran towards the door. CCSM1 chased after Child A and as Child A was running through the door she had opened to the multipurpose room, CCSM1 grabbed Child A's hair and pulled her back in to the room. It appeared to be intentional because there was no way that CCSM1 could have grabbed Child A by the arm from where she was. CCSM1 has not grabbed children by the hair before. CCSM2 told CCSM1 that it was inappropriate to grab a child like that and then picked Child A up and took her out of the room. Child A has been showing some behavioral issues lately, but did not deserve to be treated that way. There would have been no harm or danger had Child A made it into the multipurpose room so grabbing her was not necessary or appropriate.

While onsite, I placed a phone call to CCSM1. During rest time, she was sitting with some children on the far side of the classroom and observed Child A start to get upset about CCSM2 walking away from her. Child A then got up and ran towards the door to the multipurpose room. CCSM1 ran after Child A and as Child A got to the door, CCSM1 reached out to grab her shoulder but ended up grabbing Child A's hair and shirt. That was not the intention. CCSM1 feels badly about what happened. CCSM1 was reminded that recently she was spoken with as part of a separate licensing investigation about grabbing a child. She acknowledged that she should not have attempted to grab the child. When asked what harm would have come to Child A as a result of her running into the multipurpose room, CCSM1 could not articulate any potential harm. Child A had no history of running from the room but was having a tough day behaviorally.

After I was done speaking with CCSM1 on the phone, she then spoke with Ms. Ouellette and tendered her resignation.

While onsite I placed a telephone call to Child A's mother. She spoke with Ms. Ouellette after the incident occurred and had no concerns with how the incident was dealt with. She has had no issues with CCSM1 in the past and Child A has enjoyed her time at the center. Child A has attended the center since fall of 2022. The staff and facilities have been great and Child A has benefitted from her attendance.

On 12/20/2023 I conducted an exit conference via telephone with Ms. Ouellette. She indicated that CCSM1 no longer works at their facility and she will continue to monitor and train her child care staff members about the negative outcomes when staff members try to touch or grab at children.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8140(2)(a)	Hitting, spanking, shaking, biting, pinching, or inflicting other forms of corporal punishment.
ANALYSIS:	Based on the investigative findings, CCSM1 admitted to grabbing Child A by the hair while attempting to prevent her from leaving the classroom. CCSM1 claims it was accidental, but she has been told in the past to not handle/grab children, but she chose to try and grab Child A and ended up pulling her back into the classroom by her hair.
CONCLUSION:	Repeat Violation Established Child Care Case Complaint: 9/22/2023

ADDITIONAL FINDING:

INVESTIGATION:

On 11/22/2023 I spoke with Child A's mother on the telephone. She had some concerns with an incident that had taken place the previous week. Child A and another child were reportedly behind a tree in the outdoor play space and both pulled down their pants. To her knowledge the children did not touch each other but she was wondering where the child care staff were and how were children able to hide behind trees and do something like this. She was informed about the incident by Ms. Ouellette. This type of behavior has not occurred before nor has it happened again.

While onsite, I spoke to Ms. Ouellette about the incident. She indicated that the incident occurred on 11/14/2023 on the temporary outdoor play space. There were 13 children and 2 child care staff present outside. The outdoor play space does not have any trees or equipment that would create a blind spot for staff. According to the Child Care Staff Member 5 (CCSM5), there were three children sitting in a tight circle and Child B pulled the waistband down on their pants exposing their private parts. Child A then did the same thing. Child C got up and told a child care staff member about what was

happening. CCSM5 contacted the parents of all three children and had a discussion with them about private parts. Child A's mom was upset and initially wanted a meeting with all the parents of the children involved but then later decided against it. I spoke with CCSM5 about the incident. She confirmed that Child A, Child B, and Child C were sitting in a circle playing campfire. They were within view of both staff members at all times. The children pulling down the front of their waistbands while they sat down had their backs to the child care staff. Once informed by Child C, CCSM5 went over to confront the children and talk with them about private parts and being appropriate. CCSM5 also call the parents of the three children to explain what had happened. There have been no previous issues or concerns with any of the children involved in this incident. CCSM5 was playing ball with several children and CCSM1 was playing with another small group of children at the time of the incident.

On 12/18/2023 I spoke to Child C's father. He feels the situation was handled appropriately and has no concerns about the care and supervision Child C receives at Swan Valley Learning Center. He feels the staff work well with Child C and the communication between staff members and parents is adequate. Child C has not brought the incident back up to anyone and he feels it was a one time occurrence and is proud of Child C for doing the right thing by informing a child care staff member about what happened.

On 12/18/2023 I left a voicemail for Child B's mother requesting a call back at her earliest convenience.

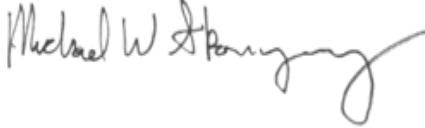

On 12/20/2023 I left a voicemail for Child B's mother requesting a call back at her earliest convenience.

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 investigative findings, The children were in a small group with their backs turned for a short time in an approved outdoor space. There were no prior instances of this behavior for any of these children. Once discovered, the children were stopped, corrected, and parents were contacted.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

BUREAU RECOMMENDATION

Bureau Recommendation
You have submitted an acceptable corrective action plan. I recommend no change in the status of the license.

Approved By:	
 Michael Skonieczny Consultant	12/20/23 Date
 Rose A. Rafferty Manager	12/20/2023 Date