



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

DR BEVERLY WALKER
GRIFFEA
DIRECTOR

8/22/2024

Noah's Ark Children's Center
Mary J Pouillon
1500 N Water St,
Owosso, MI, 48867

License Number: DC780016825
Special Investigation Number: SI-00123276

Dear Mary J Pouillon,

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 400.8140(1)	Positive methods of discipline that encourage self-control, self-direction, self-esteem, and cooperation must be used.

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

- I interviewed: Complainant, child care staff members, Program Director and parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 05/23/2024

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

R 400.8125(1)	All staff and volunteers shall always provide appropriate care and supervision of children.
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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, Angela Histed at (248) 917-1607 or histeda@michigan.gov. In the event that Angela Histed is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,



Angela Histed, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

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

Report Type: Special Investigation Report

Date of Report: 8/22/2024

Special Investigation Number	Complaint/Incident Receipt Date
SI-00123276	05/15/2024
Investigation Initiation Date	Report Due Date
5/21/2024	07/14/2024
License Number	Licensee Name(s)
DC780016825	Noah's Ark Children's Center
Facility Name	Licensee Designee(s)
Noah's Ark Children's Center	Mary J Pouillon
Program Type	
Center	
Capacity	
113	
Facility Address	Mailing Address
1500 N Water St, Owosso, MI, 48867	1500 N Water St, Owosso, MI, 48867
Facility Phone Number	Facility Email Address
9897252202	nacc.preschool@gmail.com
Original License Issuance Date	License Status:
3/11/1988	Regular
License Effective Date:	License Expiration Date:
8/8/2023	8/7/2025

ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?	
Child A (4 yrs. old) was forced to clean up his poop outside as a form of discipline.		No

Date	Activity
5/21/2024	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00123276
5/20/2024	Special Investigation Initiated via Phone Call Interviewed the Complainant via phone.

5/23/2024	Inspection Completed On-Site I conducted an onsite inspection from 9:40 AM-11:00 AM. I interviewed Child Care Staff Member (CCSM) 2 and CCSM 3 and the Program Director (PD).
6/20/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Interviewed Child A's Mother via phone.
6/20/2024	Contact- Phone Call Made A voicemail was left for CCSM 1 via phone.
6/26/2024	Contact- Phone Call Made A voicemail was left for CCSM 1 via phone.
7/22/2024	Contact- Text Message Sent A text message was sent to CCSM 1 phone number.
08/19/2024	Exit Conference with PD via phone.

ALLEGATION: Child A (4 yrs. Old) was forced to clean up his poop outside as a form of discipline.

INVESTIGATION:

On 05/21/2024, I spoke to the Complainant who stated the incident happened last Monday (05/13/2024); and the information is all hearsay from someone else who was in the child care center. The Complainant stated that they were told that Child A was outside and had to use the restroom and told CCSM 1. CCSM 1 did not allow Child A to go inside to use the bathroom, so Child A went to the bathroom outside on the playground. The concern was that Child A was then forced to clean it up by CCSM 2 by himself. The Complainant stated that it is unknown if this is true as it was just told to them by another person. The Complainant has not spoken to Child A's Mother or any administrator at the center about it.

On 05/23/2024, I made an unannounced onsite inspection at Noah's Ark Children's Center and interviewed CCSM 2, CCSM 3 and the Program Director. The Program Director was not present; the office staff contacted her to come to the center. CCSM 1 was not at the center, but her phone number was provided. I spoke to CCSM 2 privately. CCSM 2 stated that she was not outside when the incident occurred on 05/13/2024 with Child A. On that day, Child A was outside with the Pre-K classroom with CCSM 1. CCSM 2 stated that the next day, 05/14/2024 when CCSM 3 came inside from being outside with the children during afternoon recess, she told her that Child A had pooped on the playground during the morning recess. CCSM 2 stated that

she went into the classroom and talked to Child A about what happened. Child A told her that he had to go potty and could not hold it anymore. CCSM 2 stated that Child A told her that he told CCSM 1 that he had to go potty, and she told him to hold it until they went inside. CCSM 2 stated she asked Child A to show her where it was, and he acted excited to show her where it was. After she saw it, CCSM 2 stated she went inside to get gloves and a bag. Child A wanted to help her clean it. She stated they both got gloves on, and Child A held the bag as she picked it up and cleaned the area. CCSM 2 stated she did not bleach the area until all the children were inside and no more children were coming outside. Child A was not with her when she did this. It was at no time a punishment. Child A was proud to help her, and she stated they laughed the whole time. CCSM 2 stated she would never have forced Child A to clean up the poop. She stated Child A was never in trouble for doing what he did. She stated Child A was never upset and was very “matter of fact” about the incident. He did not act like it was a big deal. Child A said he had to go to the bathroom and that is what he did. CCSM 2 stated that Child A never told anyone on Monday what he had done, but on Tuesday he showed the children when they went outside and then told her when she asked him about it.

CCSM 2 stated she did not contact Child A’s parents, however; CCSM 3 did call or speak to the parents. CCSM 2 stated that she did not hear from the parents and did not know how the conversation went.

Next, I spoke to CCSM 3 who stated that she had heard about the incident that occurred on 05/13/2024 the day after when she came into work in the morning. CCSM 3 stated that during afternoon recess on 05/14/2024, Child A and a few other children were laughing and pointing so she walked over to them. At that time, the children told her that Child A had pooped out there the day before. The poop was seen behind the bin in the back corner of the playground. The bin stores all the helmets for the bikes.

CCSM 3 stated that she called CCSM 2 and asked what to do and CCSM 2 took over the situation and cleaned it up. CCSM 3 stated that she was told by CCSM 1 that she was outside with the Pre-K classroom (Lion Room) with four children. Child A told CCSM 1 that he had to go to the bathroom, and she told him to wait and did not bring him inside. CCSM 3 stated that CCSM 1 did not have a key to the building at that time, but she felt she still should have brought the child in or used the app they use on their phones to call someone to come outside and help her so Child A would not have had to hold it the whole time. She stated she did not know how long Child A was asked to hold it and did not know how long the children had been outside when Child A asked. CCSM 3 stated she has spoken to CCSM 1 about this as she is younger and newer at the center. She stated she tried to use it as a learning experience.

CCSM 3 stated when she called CCSM 2 over on the playground and showed her, CCSM 2 took Child A inside and did not see CCSM 2 or Child A come back outside to clean it. When Child A returned to the classroom, he was happy and told her that the poop was all cleaned up. She stated Child A was very proud that the poop was cleaned up. CCSM 3 stated that she was never concerned about Child A cleaning up the poop

or that Child A was forced to clean it up. She stated the only part that bothered her about the situation was that Child A felt like he had to poop outside and was not able to use the bathroom. CCSM 3 stated she spoke to a few children who denied seeing Child A poop outside and only had heard about it the next day. She stated that Child A told her he had to go “really bad” so he just went over to the bin and hid and pooped and then pushed the poop behind the bin with a stick.

CCSM 3 said she spoke to Child A’s Mother about the incident on Tuesday 05/14/2024 at pick up. She stated Child A’s Mother stated that yesterday evening, Child A had told her about it, and she thought it was a lie. Child A’s Mother was upset that Child A was not allowed inside to go to the bathroom, but she did not seem concerned about anything else. CCSM 3 stated that since she spoke to Child A’s Mother nothing else was discussed and the situation was then done, she felt.

Next, I spoke to the Program Director outside. She stated that she spoke to CCSM 1 on 05/20/2024, because CCSM 1 felt that Child A’s Mother did not like her. The Program Director stated she just went over how CCSM 1 has to be more communicative with parents when any type of incident occurs. CCSM 1 explained the situation with Child A that she did not think that Child A had to go to the bathroom that bad or even at all. She stated Child A had just gone to the bathroom before they came out, so she thought he was trying to go back inside. CCSM 1 told her that with only one staff member she makes sure they all use the bathroom before going outside. The Program Director stated that she did not speak to Child A’s parents or to other staff members because she did not feel it was a major issue. She stated she understood both sides as children always try to go back inside when they do not want to be outside. The Program Director also stated that CCSM 1 is not a staff member that would not notice something like this happening on the playground; however, she is one of the main staff members who plays with the children outside. She stated CCSM 1 will usually be pushing children on swings, has the children playing a game all together or playing on the bouncy toys with most of the children. With a classroom that is low in numbers it would not be hard for a child to play by themselves and go unnoticed for the short time it took Child A to poop outside.

The Program Director stated she also had never heard anything about Child A being forced to clean up the poop himself. She stated that she spoke to CCSM 2 about it briefly, and CCSM2 never told her that Child A was forced to or cleaned up the poop.

On 05/27/2024, I left a voicemail for Child A’s Mother via phone.

On 06/20/2024, I received a phone call from Child A’s Mother, and she stated that on 05/13/2024, Child A came home from school and told her that he had pooped on the playground, but she thought he was joking or just telling her a story. Child A’s Mother stated the next day at the child care she found out it was true by CCSM 3. She stated that if Child A must go to the bathroom, he almost always has to go right then. Child A’s Mother stated she was a little upset because she felt protocol may not have been followed, but she did not know exactly what that was. Child A’s Mother stated she only

spoke to CCSM 3 about it and did not speak to the Program Director about it or anyone else. She stated she was confident it was getting taken care of and did not feel it was a continued issue. Child A's Mother stated she has never had any issues before or currently.

On 06/20/2024 and 06/26/2024, I attempted to contact CCSM 1. I left a voicemail message requesting a phone call in return. I also attempt contact with her again on 07/22/2024 by text message, and I received a text back saying that the number does not belong to CCSM 1.

On 07/31/2024, I spoke to the Program Director who stated that CCSM 1 is no longer is employed and the only number she had for CCSM 1 was the number I had. The Program Director stated she will try to contact her another way and let her know to make contact.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

R 400.8125(1)	All staff and volunteers shall always provide appropriate care and supervision of children.
ANALYSIS:	Staff did not provide appropriate care when Child A asked CCSM 1 to use the restroom, and he was asked to hold it until the class when inside.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Established

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8140(1)	Positive methods of discipline that encourage self-control, self-direction, self-esteem, and cooperation must be used.
ANALYSIS:	The staff did not make Child A clean up his feces outside for discipline. Child A wanted to help with clean up and was allowed to put on gloves and hold the bag while CCSM 2 cleaned up the feces.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

