



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

December 15, 2022

Bethany Krueger
St Michael's Lutheran School
9444 W. Saginaw Rd.
Reese, MI 48757

RE: License #: DC790019629
Investigation #: 2023D0125002
St Michael's ECC

Dear Ms. Krueger:

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 400.8140(2)(a) Discipline.

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

- I interviewed the person who made the complaint, program director/licensee designee, child care staff members, and parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 10/31/2022.

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.	☐	☒
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	☐	☒

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, appearing to read "Juli Gohl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Juli" and last name "Gohl" clearly distinguishable.

Juli Gohl, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Bureau
611 W. Ottawa Street
P. O. Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909-8164
(810) 423-2832

Enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DC790019629
Investigation #:	2023D0125002
Complaint Receipt Date:	10/25/2022
Investigation Initiation Date:	10/31/2022
Report Due Date:	12/24/2022
Licensee Name:	St Michael's Lutheran School
Licensee Address:	9444 W. Saginaw Rd. Reese, MI 48757
Licensee Telephone #:	(989) 868-3830
Administrator:	Charles Chaveriat
Licensee Designee:	Bethany (Daenzer) Krueger
Name of Facility:	St Michael's ECC
Facility Address:	9444 West Saginaw Rd Reese, MI 48757
Facility Telephone #:	(989) 868-3830
Original Issuance Date:	11/01/1990
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	08/18/2020
Expiration Date:	08/17/2022
Capacity:	114
Program Type:	CHILD CARE CENTER

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
On 10/25/2022, child care staff member (CCSM) Brianna Dankert observed CCSM Caroline Yang pinch Child A's (male, 1 year 8 months) cheeks.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

10/25/2022	Contact – Telephone call received From program director/licensee designee Bethany Krueger
10/25/2022	Contact – Document received Incident report from Ms. Krueger
10/25/2022	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0125002
10/31/2022	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site 11:18 am – 2:53 pm Interviewed Ms. Krueger, assistant program director Lori Powell, and child care staff members (CCSM's) Kaydence Kaster, and Kailen Ball.
10/31/2022	Contact – Face to face Interviewed Child A's Mother
11/22/2022	Contact - Telephone call made Interviewed CCSM Brianna Dankert
11/22/2022	Contact - Telephone call made Voicemail message for CCSM Caroline Yang
11/22/2022	Contact - Telephone call received Interviewed Ms. Yang
11/22/2022	Contact - Telephone call made To Ms. Krueger
11/22/2022	Contact - Document Sent Email to Ms. Krueger
11/22/2022	Contact - Document Received Email from Ms. Krueger

12/08/2022	Contact – Telephone call made Voicemail for Ms. Krueger
12/08/2022	Exit Conference with Ms. Powell for Ms. Krueger

ALLEGATION: On 10/25/2022, child care staff member (CCSM) Brianna Dankert observed CCSM Caroline Yang pinch Child A's (male, 1 year 8 months) cheeks.

INVESTIGATION: On 10/25/2022, I received a telephone call from program director/licensee designee Bethany Krueger who reported that a child care staff member (CCSM) observed another CCSM pinch a child's cheeks. She then submitted the written incident report which confirmed that CCSM Brianna Dankert observed CCSM Caroline Yang pinch Child A's (male, 1 year 8 months) cheeks. Ms. Yang denied pinching Child A's cheeks and reported that Child A pinched another child's cheeks and attempted to bite this child.

On 10/31/2022 I made an unannounced onsite inspection at the center from 11:18 am – 2:53 pm and interviewed Ms. Krueger, assistant program director Lori Powell, and (CCSM's) Kaydence Kaster and Kailen Ball.

Ms. Dankert and Ms. Yang were not at the center on 10/31/2022.

Ms. Krueger provided me with the statement that CCSM Brianna Dankert had written. This document stated that as she was coming out of the bathroom she saw Ms. Yang bend down, pinch both of Child A's cheeks, then sit the child down onto the floor. Ms. Yang told her that Child A pinched Child B's (male, 1 year 6 months) cheeks then tried to bite him. Ms. Dankert mentioned that she observed Child A's cheeks were very red, too red for him to only be crying for a few seconds. Ms. Yang denied that she pinched Child A's cheeks and explained that his cheeks get red when he cries.

Ms. Krueger did not obtain a written statement from Ms. Yang.

Ms. Krueger had Ms. Dankert follow mandated reporting protocol and reported the allegations to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Ms. Krueger confirmed that Ms. Yang was on administrative leave until the determination of the investigation. She provided me with a copy of the letter that she had provided to Ms. Yang. Ms. Yang never was disciplined in the past.

Ms. Krueger confirmed that she reported the incident to Child A's Mother, he continues to attend the center, and there are no cameras in the room. The other CCSM's that were potentially in the room on 10/25/2022 are Lori Powell, Ms. Kaster,

and Ms. Ball. Ms. Krueger was not at the center at the time of the alleged incident, so Ms. Dankert reported the allegations to Ms. Powell who then reported to her when she arrived at the center. Ms. Yang became very defensive when she discussed the allegations with her and explained that after Child A pinched Child B's cheeks, she just moved them away from one another and sat Child A down on the floor. That is when he started crying. She stated that she did not pinch Child A.

Ms. Kaster did not observe the incident. She thinks that she was getting a child breakfast. She heard that Child A pinched Child B. She did see Ms. Yang move Child A onto the floor.

Ms. Ball was not present at the center at the time of the incident but Ms. Dankert told her what occurred when she arrived later in the day. She kept an eye on both Child A and Child B to assure that no further pinching happened between the two children. Ms. Yang continued to act defensive the remainder of the day and kept inquiring if she was in trouble.

Ms. Powell explained that she was in the office on 10/25/2022 when Ms. Dankert came and told her that she saw Ms. Yang pinch Child A's cheeks and that he was crying and his cheeks were red. She peeked into the room and observed that Child A was crying and his cheeks were red. She told Ms. Krueger about the incident when she arrived at approximately 10:00 am.

On 10/31/2022, I interviewed Child A's Mother who confirmed that Ms. Krueger reported the incident to her. She added that Child A began crying prior to coming to the center after the incident. He never had a long-term mark nor received medical treatment. She confirmed that his cheeks get red when he gets upset or cries.

Ms. Krueger, Ms. Kaster, Ms. Ball, and Ms. Powell all stated that they never witnessed Ms. Yang inappropriately discipline a child.

On 11/22/2022, I interviewed Ms. Dankert who explained that on 10/25/2022 she was exiting the bathroom within the room and observed Ms. Yang standing bent over toward Child A and then she pinched his cheeks. At this time, he started to cry and his cheeks were very red. She asked Ms. Yang if she pinched his cheeks and she said no. Ms. Yang told her that Child A just pinched Child B's cheeks and she separated them and sat Child A on the floor and that was why he was crying. She told Ms. Powell about the incident who then told Ms. Krueger when she arrived at approximately 10:00 am. She confirmed that she reported the incident to DHHS. Ms. Yang later asked her if she did something wrong. Other than this incident, she has never observed Ms. Yang use inappropriate discipline with any of the children.

On 11/22/2022, I interviewed Ms. Yang who confirmed that she is currently on administrative leave. On 10/25/2022, she recalled telling Ms. Dankert as she exited the bathroom that she had just separated Child A from Child B, as she observed Child A pinch Child B's cheeks. Ms. Dankert asked her if she pinched Child A's

cheeks and she said no. She clarified that she has never used inappropriate discipline with any of the children. Ms. Yang began crying and stated that she loved all of the children she cares for and would never hurt them. She is not sure why Ms. Dankert would have said otherwise.

On 11/22/2022, I attempted calling Ms. Krueger and was unable to leave a voicemail as the phones were temporarily unavailable. I sent Ms. Krueger an email asking her to contact me for completion of the exit conference. Later in the day, I received an email from Ms. Krueger explaining that the phone and internet were down for some of the day. I emailed her back and explained I would contact her after the holiday for exit conference.

On 12/08/2022, I left a voicemail for Ms. Krueger in attempt at completing the exit conference. Later in the day I received a telephone call from Ms. Powell reporting that Ms. Krueger was out ill until 12/14/2022 and was ok with me completing the exit conference with her. Ms. Powell reported that Ms. Yang no longer works at the center for reasons unrelated to this investigation.

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 not sufficient evidence to determine if Caroline Yang pinched Child A's cheeks on 10/25/2022.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend continuous of the modification of the current status of the license to 1st provisional with increased monitoring to include unannounced onsite inspections as noted in SIR 2023D0125001.



12/08/2022

Juli Gohl
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



12/15/2022

Crecendra Boone
Area Manager

Date