



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

Marlon I. Brown, DPA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

11/21/2023

Development Centers, Inc.  
17421 Telegraph,  
Detroit, MI, 48219

License Number: DC820387595  
Special Investigation Number: SI-00078423

Dear Development Centers, Inc.,

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, Childcare staff members and Parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 10/18/2023

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.

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, Laura Piacentini at (313) 269-5879 or [piacentinil@michigan.gov](mailto:piacentinil@michigan.gov). In the event that Laura Piacentini 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 "Laura Piacentini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" and the last name "Piacentini" clearly distinguishable.

Laura Piacentini, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

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

**Report Type:** Special Investigation Report

**Date of Report:** 10/31/2023

<b>Special Investigation Number</b>	<b>Complaint/Incident Receipt Date</b>
SI-00078423	10/12/2023
<b>Investigation Initiation Date</b>	<b>Report Due Date</b>
10/18/2023	12/23/2023
<b>License Number</b>	<b>Licensee Name(s)</b>
DC820387595	Development Centers, Inc.
<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Licensee Designee(s)</b>
Development Centers EHS/HS	Debra Jane Kade Rhonda Rose Mallory-Burns
<b>Program Type</b>	<b>Central Administrator(s)</b>
Center	
<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Program Director(s) Name</b>
140	Carmen Amara Donaldson <b>Qualifications:</b> R 400.8113(7)(a) (9). <b>Date PD Approved:</b> 2019-09-17
<b>Facility Address</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>
19176 Northrop, Detroit, MI, 48219	17421 Telegraph, Detroit, MI, 48219
<b>Facility Phone Number</b>	<b>Facility Email Address</b>
3132466060	djkade@develctrs.org
<b>Original License Issuance Date</b>	<b>License Status:</b>
5/23/2017	Regular
<b>License Effective Date:</b>	<b>License Expiration Date:</b>
11/18/2021	11/17/2023

**ALLEGATION(S)**

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
Two weeks ago, child care staff member (CCSM) 1 spanked Child A (3-year-old-female)	No

**METHODOLOGY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
10/17/2023	Special Investigation Initiated via Phone Call Called Child A's Mother
10/18/2023	Inspection Completed On-Site

	on site from 8:50 a.m.- 10:40 a.m. Interviewed Licensee Designee Rhonda Mallory-Burns, Program Director Carmen Donaldson, and CCSM 2.
10/24/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Called CCSM 1
10/27/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Called Child C's Mother.
10/27/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Called Child D's Mother.
10/27/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Called Child B's Mother
10/27/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Called Child E's Mother

**ALLEGATION:** Two weeks ago, child care staff member (CCSM) 1 spanked Child A (3-year-old-female).

**INVESTIGATION:**

On 10/17/2023, I spoke to Child A’s Mother. She stated that two weeks ago she saw CCSM 1 spank her child at drop off time. She stated that she dropped Child A off and then stayed in the hallway and looked through the glass window to see if Child A was calming down. She has a hard time and often cries at drop off time, so she wanted to watch Child A for a bit. She said that CCSM 1 immediately grabbed Child A, laid her across her lap and spanked Child A because she was crying. CCSM 1 was alone in the classroom when it happened and the CCSM 1 looked up and saw Child A’s Mother looking through the window. She did not say anything but “dropped her head and looked remorseful”. When asked why she waited two weeks to say anything to the school she replied that she was trying to work it out with CCSM 1 and wanted to investigate on her own. She watched CCSM 1 for two weeks “being mean” and singling out Child A by telling her she could not sit at her table. On 10/12/2023 she asked to speak to CCSM 1 about what she had been seeing and she immediately blew up and tried to fight me and hit me.

On 10/18/2023 I conducted an unannounced inspection to the Development Centers. While onsite I interviewed Program Director Carmen Donaldson, Licensee Designee Rhonda Mallory-Burns, and CCSM 2. Ms. Donaldson stated that last Thursday 10/12/2023, CCSM 1 came down to the office with Child A’s Mother and let us know that Child A’s Mother had some serious accusations that she had hit her child. Child A’s Mother stated two weeks ago, she dropped Child A off in the classroom. After leaving she stayed behind and observed through the window that CCSM 1 laid Child A on her lap and spanked her bottom because she was crying. Child A’s Mother could not remember the specific date that this happened just that it was two weeks ago. Ms. Donaldson asked why she waited so long to bring this up and Child A’s Mother said that she was trying to work it out with the CCSM 1. CCSM 1 denied that she spanked Child A. Ms. Donaldson stated that CCSM 1 never tried to fight Child A’s Mother. She was

calm the entire time we were speaking in the office. The center does have cameras in the classroom and Ms. Donaldson did look back at footage for the past two weeks during drop off time and they did not find any footage of CCSM 1 spanking Child A.

While onsite I was able to view camera footage for the dates 9/18/2023, 9/19/2023, 9/20/2023, 9/25/2023, and 9/26/2023. The camera footage showed CCSM 1 engaged with children in the classroom. No inappropriate behavior was seen. I watched Child A get dropped off and observed CCSM 1 interactions with Child A and did not see any spanking happening. The classroom was closed, and Child A was not present in the building on 9/27/2023 and 9/28/2023 so there was no footage for me to view for those days. Child A's Mother stated that the spanking happened on a day that CCSM 1 was in the room by herself. Ms. Donaldson confirmed that CCSM 1 was on her own on 9/12/2023 and 9/14/2023 and 9/18/2023. The school was able to view footage for the dates 9/12/2023 and 9/14/2023 but they were not able to save the footage before it was automatically deleted. Ms. Donaldson viewed the footage though and confirmed that no spanking took place on those days at drop off time. I was also able to view footage of the interaction between CCSM 1 and Child A's Mother on 10/12/2023. The camera has no sound, but shows CCSM 1 talking to Child A's Mother in the hallway. CCSM 1's body language was calm. CCSM 1 then walks down to the office. There are no cameras in the office. Ms. Donaldson was then seen talking to CCSM 1 and Child A's Mother in the hallway. CCSM 1's body language was clam. Child A's Mother was visibly upset. Ms. Donaldson and Child A's Mother went into a separate room to talk. After Ms. Donaldson and Child A's Mother talked, Child A's Mother stormed off down the hall.

While onsite I spoke to CCSM 2 who works in the classroom with CCSM 1. She stated she never saw CCSM 1 spank any children. She is very engaged with Child A and is always interacting pleasantly with her. She said that over the past two weeks Child A's Mother has seemed fine at drop off time. She never mentioned any concerns about CCSM 1. CCSM 2 also mentioned that Child A was in her group which means that Child A sits at her table for mealtimes and small group activities. Due to the class size, they separate children into two groups for consistency. Child A never seemed upset about sitting with CCSM 2.

On 10/24/2023, I spoke to CCSM 1 over the phone. She stated that on 10/12/2023 Child A came in and was upset and crying. She said she asked Child A to go sit at CCSM 2's table because that is her group. Child A's Mother took Child A to CCSM 2's table and then asked to speak to me out in the hallway. Child A's Mother told CCSM 1 that she saw her spank Child A on 10/11/2023 and at the beginning of the year. She said that Child A's Mother said that yesterday (10/11/2023) she saw CCSM 1 spank all the children in the classroom. She immediately went down to the office to speak to Ms. Donaldson. Her description of her interactions with Child A's Mother matched what Ms. Donaldson said. I asked her if there were any dates that she could remember when she was working by herself in the classroom. She said yes there was a few days. There were three or four children present, so she was on her own. She was only in the classroom from about 8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m. and then she took the children to another classroom. She could not recall anything happening at drop off time with Child A those

days. She stated that Child A's Mother seemed fine the past two weeks at drop off time. She brought up concerns over the food and wanted to speak to the nutritionist because she was unhappy about the food being served, but she did not say anything to CCSM 1 about her interactions with Child A.

On 10/24/2023, I emailed Ms. Donaldson to see if she was able to view camera footage for 10/11/2023. She stated that she was able to view the footage of drop off and there was no evidence to substantiate the parents claim.


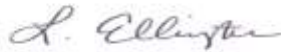
On 10/27/2023 I called to Child B's Mother, Child C's Mother, Child D's Mother and Child E's Mother. Child B's Mother, Child C's Mother, Child D's Mother and Child E's Mother all stated that they have no concerns and have never witnessed any inappropriate behavior in the classroom. Child D's Mother added that the staff members are always nice and caring at drop off time. Child C's Mother added that staff are always friendly and greet the children. She did wish she knew more about the staff members and that they shared more about what happened throughout the day but other than that she has been happy with the school.

**RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:**

APPLICABLE RULES	
<b>R 400.8140(2)(a)</b>	Hitting, spanking, shaking, biting, pinching, or inflicting other forms of corporal punishment.
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	Based on camera footage and staff interviews, there is insufficient evidence that CCSM 1 spanked Child A.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

## BUREAU RECOMMENDATION

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

Approved By:			
			
Laura Piacentini <b>Consultant</b>	11/21/2023 <b>Date</b>	LaTanya Ellington <b>Area Manager</b>	11/21/2023 <b>Date</b>