



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

Amended Report

June 12, 2023

Jessica Reppert
Belding, MI 48809
1375 5th St
Belding, MI 48809

RE: License #: DF340394498
Investigation #: 2023D0206008
Repperts Little Rugrats

Dear Ms. Reppert:

The report has been amended to reflect the removal of the rule violation, R 400.1936(5).

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:

R 400.1932(1) Home maintenance and safety.

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

- I interviewed the person who made the complaint and the licensee.
- I completed onsite inspections on 3/15/2023 & 4/05/2023.

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

R 400.1915(1) Indoor space; play equipment and materials.
R 400.1918(5) Medication; administration; procedures.
R 400.1923(5)(d) Diapering and toilet learning.
R 400.1923(5)(e) Diapering and toilet learning.
R 400.1932(1) Home maintenance and safety.
R 400.1932(2) Home maintenance and safety
R 400.1932(6) Home maintenance and safety.
R 400.1936(4) Animals and pets.
R 400.1941(3) Heat-producing equipment.

Due to the violations, you must send us a corrective action plan by 4/30/2023. You can use our [corrective action plan](#) form or create your own.

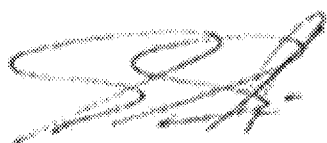
If you need help writing the corrective action plan, please contact me. If you do not send a corrective action plan, you may face disciplinary action. The corrective action plan must include the following:

- How compliance with each rule will be achieved.
- Who is directly responsible for implementing the corrective action for each violation.
- Specific time frames for each violation as to when the correction will be completed or implemented.
- How continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- The signature of the responsible party and a date.

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](#).

Sincerely,



Sean Shankin, Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
Unit 13, 7th Floor
350 Ottawa, N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DF340394498
Investigation #:	2023D0206008
Complaint Receipt Date:	03/09/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	03/10/2023
Report Due Date:	05/08/2023
Licensee Name:	Jessica Reppert
Licensee Address:	Belding, MI 48809 1375 5th St Belding, MI 48809
Licensee Telephone #:	(616) 835-7887
Administrator:	N/A
Licensee Designee:	N/A
Name of Facility:	Repperts Little Rugrats
Facility Address:	Belding, MI 48809 1375 5th St Belding, MI 48809
Facility Telephone #:	(616) 835-7887
Original Issuance Date:	01/28/2019
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	07/28/2021
Expiration Date:	07/27/2023
Capacity:	6
Program Type:	CHILD CARE FAMILY HOME (CAPACITY 1-6)

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
The child care family home is dirty and has a foul smelling odor.	Yes
Additional Findings	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

03/09/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0206008
03/10/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone Spoke to Child A and Child B's Mother.
03/15/2023	Inspection Completed On-site 11:45 AM - 12:20 PM Onsite inspection occurred at the child care facility Repperts Little Rugrats.
04/05/2023	Inspection Completed On-site 2:00 - 2:20 PM Follow-up onsite inspection occurred at the child care facility Repperts Little Rugrats.
04/05/2023	Exit Conference-occurred during the follow-up on-site inspection.
04/07/2023	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub. Compliance

ALLEGATION: The child care family home is dirty and has a foul smelling odor.

INVESTIGATION: On 3/10/2023 I spoke to Child A's Mother. Child A's Mother reported having concerns regarding the child care family home operated by Ms. Jessica Reppert. The home is unkempt and there are small items that could potentially be a choking hazard as Ms. Reppert has infants and toddlers in her care. Child A's Mother stated that while Ms. Repperts home has always been disorganized, she informed me that it has been "progressively getting worse over time." There is a strange and foul odor present in the home which she could not identify. She continued to state that her best characterization of the odor was "like body odor mixed with sweat," and then stated that

the smell was "uninviting." I asked Child A's Mother if she noticed a difference in the cleanliness of the home when comparing drop-offs to pickups, which she denied, stating it did not matter when you would visit, the home was also unkempt and foul smelling. Child A's Mother also reported that the child care had to close in the past due to children's illnesses, and she believed that the lack of cleanliness could have contributed to past child illnesses, such as "pink eye." Child A's Mother reported that the room used for napping was "very cluttered" and did not believe it was appropriate for children to be placed in the room, despite it only being used for napping. Child A's Mother denied ever mentioning her concerns to Ms. Reppert as this was a difficult conversation to have, and out of fear it could potentially lead to Child A being discharged from the child care facility.

On 3/15/2023 I conducted an unannounced on-site inspection at Ms. Reppert's child care family home. During the inspection of the home, I documented the conditions of the child care by taking 35 photographs of the condition of the facility. During the walk-through of the home, there were a variety of concerns found. The home appeared to be extremely disorganized and unkempt with piles of boxes and other materials stacked against various walls throughout the home. I observed multiple small items throughout various rooms in the home that posed a choking hazard to the mobile infants and toddlers enrolled as child care children. The items that were deemed a choking hazard included plastic bags, prescription medications, paperclips, and other small, nondescript items disbursed throughout the main and lower levels of the home. There was also a sharp knife accessible near the edge of the countertop in the kitchen. While Ms. Reppert was in the process of making lunch during my arrival, she escorted me throughout the home without moving the knife to a safe, inaccessible location. There were also concerns of potential blood-borne illnesses in the home which included the child care children having access to trash (containing soiled diapers) present in the bathroom. There was also trash accessible to the child care children in the kitchen of the home.

There were also holes in the walls in various areas throughout the home, including in the area that was previously cited where the banister had detached from the wall. Additionally, there were areas where the drywall was visible due to the deterioration/peeling of paint. Also, while Ms. Reppert denied the use of the gas fireplace separating the living room and kitchen/dining room, there were combustible materials found directly against the glass on both sides of the fireplace. Technical assistance was provided to Ms. Reppert that despite the fireplace not being used, the combustible materials should still not sit directly next to the fireplace. Due to the fireplace not being used, this rule violation was not cited. Lastly, there was also a nondescript odor present throughout both the main and lower levels of the home. I informed Ms. Reppert that I was unable to identify the odor, but it should be addressed and cleaned.

Prior to leaving the residence I informed Ms. Reppert that since there were multiple rule violations for the condition of the home, I would be making another unannounced

inspection prior to conclusion of the special investigation to determine what/if any progress had been made.

On 4/05/2023 I conducted a follow-up onsite inspection at Ms. Reppert's family child care home. I should note that while Ms. Reppert did make progress in addressing some of the concerns located throughout the home, there were still multiple areas that Ms. Reppert needed to continue to address. Ms. Reppert permitted me to photographing the home during the inspection to document the progress that had been achieved.

During the follow-up inspection on 4/05/2023 I conducted an exit conference with Ms. Reppert. I informed Ms. Reppert of the multiple rule violations and advised that I would be recommending increased monitoring to assure future compliance in regard to the cleanliness and upkeep of the family child care.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1932	Home maintenance and safety.
	(1) The structure, premises, and furnishings of a child care home must be in good repair and maintained in a clean, safe, and comfortable condition.
ANALYSIS:	The furnishing of the home was not in a well maintained, clean, comfortable, or safe condition. The areas observed included multiple holes in the walls throughout the home, chipped paint that exposed the drywall, and a nondescript odor present from within the home. During the follow up inspection, the holes in the walls and chipping paint were still present; however, there was a slight reduction in the severity of the odor present. Ms. Reppert was informed that additional cleaning and repair would need to occur to be within compliance.
CONCLUSION:	REPEAT VIOLATION ESTABLISHED LSR dated 8/19/2022 CAP dated 8/19/2022

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1932	Home maintenance and safety.
	(2) All dangerous and hazardous materials or items must be stored securely and out of the reach of children.

ANALYSIS:	Hazardous materials were found present throughout the home including exposed trash, a knife, and prescription medications.
CONCLUSION:	REPEAT VIOLATION ESTABLISHED LSR dated 6/24/2019 CAP dated 6/24/2019

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1932	Home maintenance and safety.
	(6) There must be no flaking or deteriorating paint on interior and exterior surfaces, equipment, and toys accessible to children.
ANALYSIS:	There was exposed drywall on the interior wall of the home near the living room. The drywall was exposed from an area where the paint had peeled from the wall.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:

INVESTIGATION: While conducting a walk-through of the bedroom located on the main level of the home used for napping, there were items stacked approximately 7 feet in height, and spanned the length of the room. Along the opposite wall, there was row of materials placed along the wall that spanned the length of the room leaving only a small section in the center of the room that was deemed as usable space. Despite the room only being licensed for napping, it appeared as if there was less than the required 35 sq. ft. of child use space, per child for the bedroom.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1915	Indoor space; play equipment and materials.
	(1) A child care home shall provide not less than 35 square feet per child of safe, usable, accessible indoor floor space, not including bathrooms and storage areas.

ANALYSIS:	During the inspection the master bedroom on the main level of the home contained excessive clutter and does provide a minimum of 35 square feet per child of safe, usable space.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

INVESTIGATION: During the investigation, two pill bottles containing prescription medications were found to be accessible within the home.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1918	Medication; administration; procedures.
	(5) All medication must be kept out of the reach of children and returned to the child's parent when he or she determines it is no longer needed or when it has expired.
ANALYSIS:	Two pill bottles containing prescription medication were found accessible in an approved child care area.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

INVESTIGATION: During the onsite inspection, an uncovered trash bag with soiled diapers was in the bathroom.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1923	Diapering and toilet learning.
	(5) All of the following requirements apply when cloth diapers or training pants are used: (d) Soiled diapers must be placed in a plastic-lined, covered container used only for that child's soiled diapers.
ANALYSIS:	A trash bag containing soiled diapers was present in the bathroom, in the area designated for diaper changing.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1923	Diapering and toilet learning.
	(5) All of the following requirements apply when cloth diapers or training pants are used: (e) Soiled diapers or training pants must be stored and handled in a manner that will not contaminate any other items and must not be accessible to children.
ANALYSIS:	The open trash bag containing soiled diapers were found in an untied trash bag in the center of the bathroom floor. This bag was easily accessible to any of the child care children if/when they entered the bathroom.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

INVESTIGATION: During the onsite inspection while I was viewing the home the family's dog had complete access throughout the main floor of the home, including the kitchen. The dog was observed walking through the kitchen at the time of the inspection. It should also be noted that Ms. Reppert was actively preparing the children's lunch during the time of the inspection.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1936	Animals and pets.
	(4) Animals and pets shall not be allowed in food preparation and eating areas during meal or snack time.
ANALYSIS:	The dog was actively walking through the kitchen and dining room of the home while the licensee was prepping lunch.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

INVESTIGATION: During the onsite inspection a portable space heater was found plugged in and turned on in an approved child care area.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1941	Heat-producing equipment.
	(2) Portable heating devices must not be used when children are in care.
ANALYSIS:	A portable space heater was found turned on in the bathroom of the lower level of the home.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend the special investigation be closed. It is recommended that this child care facility receive increased monitoring.



6/12/2023

Sean Shankin
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



6/13/2023

Yolanda Sims
Area Manager

Date