



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

July 10, 2023

Brittanie Evans
PO Box 434
Shepherd, MI 48883

RE: License #: DG370409970
Investigation #: 2023D0012011
Brittanie Evans

Dear Ms. Evans:

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:

- R400.1913(2) Discipline; child handling.**
- R400.1913(3) Discipline; child handling.**

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

- I interviewed: licensee, caregivers, and parents.
- I completed an onsite inspection on 4/26/2023.

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.

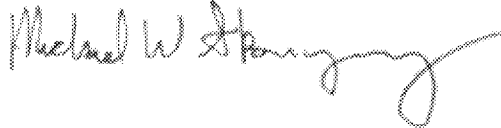
I recommend no change to the current license status.

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 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 "Michael W. Skonieczny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Michael Skonieczny, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Bureau
611 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909
(989) 289-8572

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DG370409970
Investigation #:	2023D0012011
Complaint Receipt Date:	04/24/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	04/26/2023
Report Due Date:	06/23/2023
Licensee Name:	Brittanie Evans
Licensee Address:	11968 E. Pickard Rd. Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
Licensee Telephone #:	(989) 854-2665
Administrator:	N/A
Licensee Designee:	N/A
Name of Facility:	Brittanie Evans
Facility Address:	11968 E. Pickard Rd. Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
Facility Telephone #:	(989) 854-2665
Original Issuance Date:	11/05/2021
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	05/05/2022
Expiration Date:	05/04/2024
Capacity:	14
Program Type:	CHILD CARE GROUP HOME (CAPACITY 7-12)

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Ms. Evans' husband yells at the children when they go upstairs.	No
A child care staff member, Brandy Burton, hit Child E(6-year-old male) in the mouth.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

04/24/2023	Special Investigation Intake - 2023D0012011
04/26/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site from 11:15AM to 12:30PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviewed Brittanie Evans (licensee) - Interviewed Abby White (child care staff member) - Interviewed Brandy Burton (child care staff member) - Interviewed Elaine Alexander (child care staff member)
04/26/2023	Contact - Telephone call made to complaint source. A voicemail was left.
05/05/2023	Contact - Telephone call made to complaint source. A voicemail was left.
05/11/2023	Contact - Telephone call made to complaint source. A voicemail was left.
05/15/2023	Contact - Telephone call made to complaint source. A voicemail was left.
05/15/2023	Contact - Telephone call made to Child A's mother, Child B's father, and Child G's mother. Voicemails were left.
05/15/2023	Contact - Telephone call made to child C's mother and Child F's mother.
05/23/2023	Contact - Telephone call made to Child A's mother, Child B's father, and Child G's mother. voicemails were left.
05/23/2023	Contact - Telephone call made to complaint source. A voicemail was left.
05/24/2023	Exit Conference via telephone with Ms. Evans

ALLEGATION: Ms. Evans' husband yells at the children when they go upstairs.

INVESTIGATION: On 4/26/2023 I conducted an unannounced onsite visit at the home of Brittanie Evans. There were three child care staff members present in addition to Ms. Evans. There were 10 children present at the time of the visit. Ms. Evans was advised of the allegations and denied that her husband, Jake Evans, yells at the children. He does not have very much interaction with them. The children only go upstairs when they arrive, when they go outside, or when they are being picked up. He is back to work full time now and is barely around when children are in care.

I spoke to child care staff members Abby White, Brandy Burton, and Elaine Alexander. They all indicated that Mr. Evans is not mean to the children and does not yell at them. He is rarely downstairs where the children are so the only interaction with them would be when they arrive/depart and when they go outside. He will remind them to not touch the walls or items in the living room as they head out the front door, but he does not yell at them. He is a nice guy who is always respectful to the staff, children, and parents of the child care.

On 4/26/2023 a telephone call was made to the complaint source. A voicemail was left requesting a call back.

On 5/05/2023 a telephone call was made to the complaint source. A voicemail was left requesting a call back.

On 5/11/2023 a telephone call was made to the complaint source. A voicemail was left requesting a call back.

On 5/15/2023 a telephone call was made to the complaint source. A voicemail was left requesting a call back.

On 5/15/2023 a telephone call was made to Child A's mother, Child B's father, and Child G's mother. Voicemails were left requesting a call back.

On 5/15/2023 a telephone call was made to Child C's mother and Child F's mother. Neither parent has seen or heard out Mr. Evans yelling at the children or acting disrespectfully towards them in any way. Child C (6-year-old male) and Child F (3-year-old male) have never indicated that Mr. Evans yells at them nor do they show any apprehension or fear of him.

On 5/23/2023 a telephone call was made to the complaint source. A voicemail was left requesting a call back.

On 5/23/2023 a telephone call was made to Child A's mother, Child B's father, and Child G's mother. Voicemails were left requesting a call back.

On 5/24/2023 I conducted an exit conference with Ms. Evans via telephone. She was advised that there was no evidence of any rule violations. Ms. Evans has installed cameras in the child care to ensure that no one else can make accusations like this against her staff again.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1913	Discipline; child handling.
	(2) Developmentally appropriate positive methods of discipline that encourage self-control, self-direction, self-esteem, and cooperation must be used.
ANALYSIS:	There is no evidence that Mr. Evans yells at the children or that any child is treated with inappropriate methods of discipline.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: A child care staff member, Brandy Burton, hit Child E (6-year-old male) in the mouth.

INVESTIGATION: On 4/26/2023 an onsite inspection was conducted. Ms. Evans was informed of the allegations and denied that any of her child care staff members hit Child E. Child E struggles with behavior both at child care and at school. His mother is a cousin to Ms. Evans. On that day Child E got off the bus at 3:50PM. Ms. Evans arrived at the child care at 4:20PM because they had been running an errand. When they arrived back at the home, Ms. Evans was informed that Child E was having behavior issues. Ms. Evans texted Child E’s mother and told her Child E was struggling with behavior issues. Ms. Burton left at 4:45PM and Child E left at 5:15PM. The next day, Child E’s mother texted Ms. Evans saying she had gotten a call from the school because Child E was claiming that he was hit at child care the previous day. The employees were questioned, and no one knew anything about it. Another text message was received from Child E’s mother a short time later saying that the school has misunderstood, and Child E denied saying anyone at child care hit him. He said he would get “tapped on the mouth” at home if he said bad words. Ms. Evans told her that if Child E can’t behave then he is not going to be allowed to come anymore. Child E’s mother then became angry and started sending text messages saying that Child E was hit at child care, and she was going to call in a complaint. Ms. Evans provided the text message conversation. Child E’s mother attempted to hide or unsend a number of messages, but Ms. Evans had taken screen shots of the deleted messages prior to them being deleted. The text conversation seems to corroborate Ms. Evans’ statements.

Ms. White was interviewed. She remembers getting the children off the bus at 3:50PM that day. Child E was out of control and acting aggressively towards the other children that day. He was not listening to anyone and shoving people. Child care staff member Elaine Alexander put Child E in a cool off area. Ms. White did not

see anyone hit Child E nor has she ever witnessed a child care staff member use physical discipline with any child. She feels that Ms. Burton is an amazing child care provider and would never hit a child.

Ms. Burton was interviewed. On the day of the alleged incident, she helped get the kids off the bus at 3:50 and got them a snack. Child E was picking on other kids and yelling. He was asked to stop those behaviors. Child E then wanted to play in the block area but there were no open spots. After a few minutes, a spot opened up and he was allowed to go play with the blocks. He then got mad because no one wanted to play with him due to him being mean that day. He started throwing blocks and yelling. Ms. Alexander went over to deal with Child E because it was time for Ms. Burton to go home. Ms. Burton denied ever hitting a child and said her standard way of dealing with poor behavior is redirection and talking it out.

Ms. Alexander was interviewed. On the day of the incident, Child E was out of control. He was yelling and throwing blocks. He was put in a cool off area for a short time. She was in and out of the room, but never heard him get yelled at or hit by anyone. Usually, they can talk to the kids and redirect them before the behavior gets bad. She would never suspect Ms. Burton of hitting a child and knows if it did happen, Child E would have been yelling about it and telling everyone who would listen.

On 5/15/2023 Child C's mother was spoken with on the telephone. She feels Child C is safe at the child care and has no concerns or complaints. Communication to parents is wonderful and the staff work well in dealing with behavioral issues and setting goals. Child C was having some behavior issues and issues eating and since going to the child care, those issues have gone away. When Child C is having a hard time, he is separated from the group and given a chance to cool down.

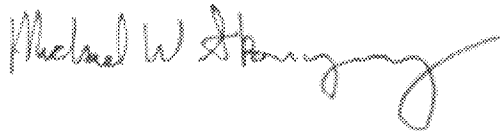
On 5/15/2023 Child F's mother was spoken with on the telephone. She feels that Child F has had a fantastic experience at child care. Child F and the staff are wonderful. When Child F is having a rough day, he is separated from the group into a safe space and then rejoins the group after he is settled down. She has no concerns with how Child F is treated at the child care.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1913	Discipline; child handling.
	(3) Personnel shall not do any of the following: (a) Hit, spank, shake, bite, pinch, or inflict other forms of corporal punishment.

ANALYSIS:	There is no evidence that Child E was hit by a child care staff member at the facility.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in this child care license.



07/10/2023

Michael Skonieczny
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



07/10/2023

Rose A. Rafferty
Area Manager

Date