



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

June 29, 2023

Crystal Garcia
Po Box 300
Pierson, MI 49339

RE: License #: DG590409696
Little Gems Childcare
140 Elm St
Pierson, MI 49339

Dear Ms. Garcia:

This letter is a follow-up to the Department's findings regarding the interim inspection conducted at your home on 06/27/2023. The purpose of this inspection was to determine compliance with applicable licensing statutes and administrative rules for Family and Group Child Care Homes.

When I arrived for the onsite inspection, Ms. Garcia and three child care staff members were present with 18 children. 10 of the 18 children were related to Ms. Garcia or her staff members, and Ms. Garcia was within ratio requirements. During the inspection, six of the children were sleeping, an infant was being cared for by a staff member and the other children were watching television/engaging in free play.

The violations that were found are:

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.

Ms. Garcia had a large container of chicks in her kitchen, where food is prepared.

R 400.1936 Animals and pets.

(5) Litter boxes, pet food, pet dishes, and pet toys must be inaccessible to children.

An open bag of chicken food was in the kitchen area and accessible to children.

R 400.1945 Emergency; plan; drill.

(4) Fire drills must be practiced while children are in care at least once quarterly, and a written record that includes the date and time it takes to evacuate must be maintained.

Ms. Garcia did not record quarterly fire drills.

R 400.1945 Emergency; plan; drill.

(5) At least 2 tornado drills must be practiced while children are in care between March and November, and a written record of these drills that includes the date must be maintained.

Ms. Garcia did not record at least two tornado drills between March and November.

During the exit conference, technical assistance/consultation was provided regarding the following:

- Update the Child Care Background Check system for accuracy.
- Ensure locks on drawers with sharps are latched correctly.
- The outdoor play area had standing water with no barriers. Ms. Garcia utilizes an alternative outdoor play area when there is standing water in the outdoor play area behind her house due to rain.
- Ms. Garcia's current diaper changing area does not have access to a handwashing sink nearby. Ms. Garcia will move her current diaper changing area to an area that has access to a handwashing sink, until the bathroom near the current diaper changing area is complete with a working handwashing sink.
- Ms. Garcia will add to her discipline policy to include a statement that she does not utilize time outs for children under the age of three.

On 6/27/2023, you gave us an acceptable written corrective action plan.

During calendar year 2022:	Total
Number of serious injuries that occurred in facility.	0
Number of deaths that occurred in the facility.	0
Number of substantiated cases of abuse and/or neglect of a child that occurred at the facility.	0

You can find a copy of this inspection letter and any associated corrective action plans on our [website](#) under [Statewide Search for Licensed Child Care Centers and Homes](#). A description of when inspection letters are completed can be found under [Overview of Licensing Reports](#).

Please 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.

Per MCL 722.113g, this report and any related corrective action plans must be filed in your Licensing Notebook.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Schalk". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sara Schalk, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Bureau
611 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30837
Lansing, MI 48909
(231)340-2730